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'Tourists are treated like cattle'



Finance still owes MVA $5.3M

Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce presides over a board meeting yesterday at MVA's conference room in Oleai/San Jose. During the meeting, acting MVA managing director Judy C. Torres disclosed that the Department of Finance remitted to the MVA $1.5 million in hotel occupancy tax collection last month, but that $5.3 million remains pending. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Finance turned over $1.5 million in hotel occupancy tax collections to the Marianas Visitors Authority last September but, according to MVA acting managing director Judy C. Torres, this is only a partial amount.

In her status report on the hotel occupancy tax receivables at the MVA board meeting yesterday, Torres said the $1.5 million means that Finance is only current with the hotel occupancy tax collec-

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By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former CNMI Zoning board director Bruce Bateman is taking issue with how the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife is routing passengers through the Smiling Cove Marina on their way to Managaha Island, saying that tourists are being taken down to the boats "like cattle."

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What emergency?

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

It's been nearly a year since Super Typhoon Yutu wreaked havoc in October 2018, yet the CNMI remains technically and officially under a state of emergency and Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) wants to know why.



Sablan

Speaking in yesterday's session of the House of Representatives, Sablan questioned the continuation of the emergency declaration for the CNMI, pointing out that the emergency declaration had been active for a year already, and fears that it leaves the CNMI government open to abuse if left unchecked.

"…We are coming up on a full year since Super Typhoon Yutu," she told

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Yap's acting AG shot dead

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Friends say lawyer Rachelle Bergeron planned to soon return to the U.S. after a challenging stint prosecuting criminals on the Pacific nation of the Federated States of Micronesia, but she was shot and killed as she returned home Monday from a run with her dog.



Bergeron

Friends say her husband was inside at the time, baking brownies with a local child the couple was helping care for.

The killing has shocked the tiny island of Yap, home to 11,000 people, where

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Local

DFEMS still sifting through what caused Gualo Rai fire

By MARC A. VENUS
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REPORTER



Photo shows what remains of the barracks in Gualo Rai that caught fire early Monday morning. DFEMS

The cause of a house fire in Gualo Rai last Monday that left eight people homeless remains undetermined, with investigators of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services still sifting through the scene for clues.

According to a DFEMS statement yesterday, it received a call last Monday at 1:13am from the Department of Public Safety's 911 dispatch reporting of a structure fire in Gualo Rai behind Subway.

At 1:15am, rescue and medical teams from the Susupe, Garapan, and Kagman fire stations were dispatched to the site, with the first units arriving at the scene at about 1:22am.

The fire was reportedly controlled at 2:10am. No person was injured and no treatment was provided at the scene for medical complaints.

The DFEMS units confirmed that the structure was already fully engulfed when they got there. Fire crews continued to suppress the fire to prevent it from traveling or damaging other homes near it. Investigators confirmed that the building was a single-story barracks containing eight residents.

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's Disaster Action Team members were able to assist the residents immediately, providing them with emergency assistance for food shelter and clothing.

More CUC customers avail of net metering

More and more homeowners on Saipan are availing of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s net metering program.

Net metering is a low-cost type of renewable energy technology that allows customers to bank their energy and use it at their convenience and then sell any excess power they produce to CUC.

During Thursday's CUC board meeting, CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho informed CUC directors that, as of Aug. 31, 2019, CUC has connected 11 more net metering accounts.

That means the total number of net metering customers who are connected to the CUC grid stands at 391 residential, commercial, and government accounts, Camacho said.

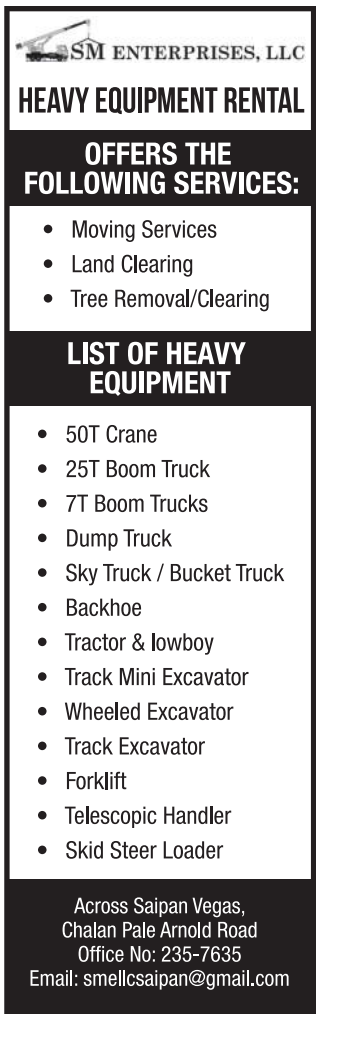
He said their Power Division expects the net metering customer base to increase in the future as 216 customer applications are under review for grid connection.

He said the total grid connected system amount to 4.1 megawatts.

In 2014, the CUC board approved net metering for its residential customers, allowing residential customers to install solar panels in their homes and get paid for any excess power that is returned to the CUC grid. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***







40 small biz learn how to do business with FEMA

Businesses got a chance yesterday to link up and work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in its efforts to respond to disasters on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

In an "Industry Day" that FEMA hosted at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center yesterday from 10am to 4pm, it reached out to local small businesses that FEMA could tap when it responds in times of disasters like typhoons.

"When local disasters are declared, we are trying to get local businesses [to join] and put the money back to the community," said FEMA Region IX contracting officer Demetria Carter.

She that about 40 small businesses joined the event and she hopes that more companies can register with FEMA in the future. "Our current goal is to register these businesses and to provide them overall information and educational information on doing business with FEMA," Carter said.

Right now, FEMA has contracts with larger businesses in the CNMI. With this "Industry Day" opportunity, small businesses can put a foot in the FEMA door and obtain the benefits that these larger companies are currently getting when contracting with FEMA.

Carter said that small businesses would benefit greatly from a partnership with FEMA.

She pointed out that from Super Typhoon Yutu alone, local businesses in the CNMI got $18.18 million from FEMA, while non-local businesses got a total of $68 million.

Carter said that FEMA would like to hold future events like yesterday's "Industry Day" every year.

One attendee said that this opportunity to work with FEMA will help him grow his business and enables him to see other possibilities of how he can work with FEMA further.

According to FEMA's website, the Industry Liaison Program establishes strategic relationships with suppliers and stakeholders. This serves as an information provider for suppliers seeking to do business with FEMA and it connects suppliers with program offices in support of FEMA's mission.

"FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards," the agency website said.

Presenters from the Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center and the CNMI Small Business Development Center also showed businesses some possible opportunities with them. ***(Marc A. Venus)***

2 take the lead in CNMI youth's fight vs climate change

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

With mostly young people at the frontline in the fight against climate change in other parts of the world, two young men here in the CNMI have also stepped up to mobilize their fellow youths in the fight for the islands' future.

Seiji Gonzales of Kagman High School and Yarawe Themar of Marianas High School are members of and representatives of Saipan to the Heirs to Our Oceans, or H2OO, a global youth movement whose mission is to educate and empower all youth to become leaders in protecting the world's oceans.

Recognizing that climate change is real and knowing that it is the youth who would most suffer from its effects, the two are asking the CNMI government to join them in galvanizing the United Nations to action.

"We need our politicians to side with us [the youth]," Gonzales said, "so we can all come together with our peers in the [United] States, so we can get the United Nations to assist us in our goal to stop climate change."

Last month, on Sept. 23, a total of 16 youth, including Swiss activist Greta Thunberg, filed a petition with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, alleging that Brazil, Argentina, France, Germany, and Turkey are exacerbating the consequences of climate change, violating the youth's right to life, health, and culture.

They asked the UN to lead the charge, to demand better for them, and to enforce the bold changes needed to stop global warming from going up by 1.5°C.

Right now, human activities have boosted global temperatures by about 1.1°C. This is expected to increase by 3.5°C in the year 2100, based on current climate policies that worldwide governments have set. Many scientists are saying that humans only have 11 years to act before the point of no return is reached



Yarawe Themar, left, of Marianas High School and Seiji Gonzales of Kagman High School are fronting the youth movement in the CNMI against climate change.

IVA MAURIN

Gonzales and Themar are calling for everyone to wake up now, stressing that climate change is not a theory, but has been scientifically proven and backed by credible scientists and important figures around the world.

"Climate crisis is going to happen soon," Themar said. "We have to do something now. …What we are fighting for is our future. We are not here because we want to be here. We are here because we have to. We are fighting for our future and we are fighting for our children's future because, once everything has passed, then who is there to take over what the adults right now have left us?"

The two are set to rally the community, especially the youth, to come up with alternatives that are eco-friendly and sustainable.

"All we are asking is that the community and the government hear our youth out," Gonzales said. "Assist us in a better society, lead [us] to a more eco-friendly and more sustainable society. We could all work together to save what we have done and what we are continuing to do because if not now, then when? *Kumu ti Pågu, Pues ngai'an? Ngare saabw ighila, pues ileta?*"

Young members of the community who want to know more about or join the youth movement can contact Frances Sablan at 783-5512, Gordon Marciano at 287-1195, or John Gonzales at 285-6382.

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Cannabis commission down to 5 prospects

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The CNMI Cannabis Commission is down to five prospects for the managing director position and may announce a selection in the coming weeks.

Nadine Deleon Guerrero, who chairs the commission, said they've whittled the number of prospective candidates from an initial list of 13 applicants to five.

She did not specify the criteria used to shave down the number of qualified applicants.

"We plan on having the interviews next week and we are hoping to announce the managing director [soon]," Deleon Guerrero added.

She declined to specify who the applicants are, citing privacy concerns.

"We are really happy with the pool that we have. All of them hold not just leadership skills within what they are currently doing, but…their moral character is also really good. We feel these are people that [other] people look up to," she noted. "We feel any of these [applications] would be a good fit for the position."

Ultimately, the selection would possibly come down to the results of the interview.

"The interview is what is going to determine who we select and it really just depends on how the interview [goes]," Deleon Guerrero said. "…It will be the interview process that makes or breaks how the [managing director] is selected."

According to Deleon Guerrero, local law mandates the commissioners, along with the managing director, to submit to a drug test prior to serving on the commission.

"The person that gets selected cannot be a user. That is according to the law. The [cannabis] commission did not come up with that; it's what the law states," she noted.

Deleon Guerrero said the deliberation to make the final selection would be done during an executive session after the interviews.

The managing director must score either a unanimous vote of the commissioners or at least obtain a majority vote in favor of his or her selection. Only then will the final selection be announced.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission held its second meeting so far yesterday at the commission office.

The CNMI Cannabis Commission is a five-person regulatory body consisting of Saipan representatives Matt Deleon Guerrero, Nadine Deleon Guerrero, and Valentino Taisakan, Rota representative Thomas Songsong, and Tinian representative Journie Hofschneider.

DETF arrests woman for alleged 'ice' trafficking

Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested Monday on Capital Hill a woman who was allegedly elling methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Minna M. Camacho, 40, was served with an arrest warrant for trafficking and possession of controlled substance.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan imposed a $100,000 cash bail on Camacho and set the preliminary hearing for Oct. 23 at 9am.

According to DETF officer Jackson K. Davis in his report, their "cooperating source" disclosed last Oct. 2 that Camacho is actively distributing "ice" to customers on the island.

David said the "cooperating source" managed to buy 0.4 gross grams of methamphetamine worth $100 from Camacho last Oct. 5 during a buy-walk operation.

Camacho allegedly handed the methamphetamine to the "cooperating source" inside the latter's car that was parked near MGM Poker in Garapan. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

TOURISTS

From Page 1

Speaking at yesterday's meeting of the Marianas Visitors Authority board, Bateman urged the board to look into the matter, especially with tourists being made to line up under the hot sun.

Bateman said he was at the Smiling Cove Marina last Friday when the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Division of Fish and Wildlife started implementing a new regulation to collect a $3 per passenger loading fee at the Smiling Cove Marina from each tourist going to Managaha. He described the fee as a scheme to extort money from tourists and boat operators.

He said he saw over a hundred tourists that were lined up "under the hot sun being taken like cattle down to the boats."

"I'm not exaggerating," Bateman told the MVA board.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to obtain comments from either DLNR or Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Saipan Tribune, however, learned from some marine sports operators yesterday that DLNR may end up only with one boat operator using the Smiling Cove Marina.

Operators, who asked that they not be identified, disclosed that they, instead, use the commercial ports and pay the Commonwealth Ports Authority at only $1 per customer.

Other operators are also using the Fishing Base in Garapan to avoid the $3 per passenger loading fee.

At the MVA board meeting, Bateman said the new regulation to charge each passenger $3 subject marine sports operators to a double tax.

He urged the MVA board to discuss the matter with DLNR Secretary Anthony Benavente at the Governor's Office. This prompted MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce to ask acting MVA managing director Judy C. Torres to make an appointment with Benavente to discuss the issue.

DLNR said the money collected through the passenger fee will be used to maintain and operate the transient dock within the Smiling Cove Marina, which is being used to load and unload passengers going to and from Managaha, instead of the Outer Cove Marina, which has been closed after being deemed unsafe for public use.

In an interview, Bateman said he was at the Smiling Cove Marina last Friday when DLNR began the process of charging $3 per tourist who wants to enjoy water sports activities and the island's number one attraction—Managaha Island.

"They are being rudely treated. The vehicles that bring them there have no place to park. The parking lot is reserved for Fish and Wildlife personnel," he said.

Bateman said many of those engaged in marine sports activities will be forced out of business because they are being double-charged and their customers are being harassed.

Bateman said he is simply putting an exclamation point on what MVA directors already know.

He said he is trying to persuade MVA directors to do whatever they can to try to get DFW and DLNR to reconsider their position. "If they insist in extorting $3 extra per tourist, find some other ways to do it. Find some rational ways to do it. Don't harass the tourists in order to squeeze the $3 out," Bateman said.

He pointed out that, under the new regulation, boat owners have to go to DFW in Lower Base and get a stamped piece of paper, proceed to the Department of Finance on Capital Hill, which is the nearest place where they can pay, then go back to the Division of Fish and Wildlife and are given wristbands for the tourists to put on.

Bateman said the tourists are then "literally herded" two at a time to fill up a boat and are counted.

He said 10-passenger vans are used to bring the tourists to the Smiling Cove as buses don't go there because there is no place to unload passengers.

On the double taxation issue, Bateman said a boat owner has to pay a docking fee to park a vessel at the marina.

He cited that one boat operator pays $1,100 a month to park his boat in the Outer Cove Marina, but now he can no longer load his customers at the dock where he has parked his vessel. What the boat operator must do now is drive his boat into the Smiling Cove to the "convenient dock" where he pays FDFW another $1,100 per month.

He pointed out that there is simply not enough room at the Smiling Cove Marina's "convenient dock."

"The boats are herded in like cattle in a narrow channel. It's a dangerous situation," he said.

FINANCE

From Page 1

tion remittance up to March.

To date, Torres said, MVA has gotten a total of about $5.8 million from Finance. About $5.3 million remains pending or has yet to be turned over to MVA, she added.

With respect to vendor payables for MVA offshore offices, she said MVA has fully paid June and July 2019 invoices and made 50% payment for the August invoices.

For the MVA Korea offshore office, Torres said that MVA has fully paid the August 2019 invoices.

Torres said they have processed payments for local and other vendors with invoices that are 60 days and over past due.

"So that's our current status as of September," said Torres, adding that they have collected all the receivables for fiscal year 2018.

Last Aug. 1, MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo disclosed that they received a total of $1.3 million from Finance.

Iakopo said, however, that, as of June 2019, Finance still owes MVA $4.7 million in hotel occupancy tax.

Last July, Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" T. Guerrero (R-Saipan) urged Finance to transmit the $5.1 million that it owes MVA in hotel occupancy tax collection, saying Finance is technically violating the law when it fails to remit the collection.

Guerrero, who chairs the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, pointed out that, under the law, 80% of the hotel occupancy tax collection goes to MVA, while the remaining 20% goes to the Retirement Settlement Fund.

YAP

From Page 1

Bergeron served as acting attorney general of Yap State. Authorities say they're investigating the crime, but did not indicate if they have arrested any suspects.

Bergeron was from Wisconsin and first moved to Yap in 2015 when she took a job as assistant attorney general. She previously worked in Washington D.C., New York, and India.

According to a Radio New Zealand report, the national government has confirmed the U.S. citizen's death.

It said the FSM police have opened a homicide investigation and suspect a single shooter was behind her death.

"The State of Yap, with the assistance of the FSM Department of Justice and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, are coordinating efforts to complete a thorough investigation," the FSM government is quoted as saying in a statement. "We will disseminate information as it becomes publicly available."

FSM police said Bergeron was shot at about 7pm or 8pm.

A motive was unclear, with police investigations ongoing, FSM spokesperson Ryan Fratmag said.

"They are working on the case right now."

Bergeron first arrived in Yap from the U.S. in 2015, and was promoted to acting attorney general in January. ***(With RNZ)***

WHAT

From Page 1

Saipan Tribune. "My concern is that funds can be moved around with very minimal oversight and transparency under the guise of an emergency. Procurement regulations are suspended and contracts are sole-sourced. We've seen this before with previous administrations as well, where the emergency powers of the executive have been abused. I would worry about going down that road again."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres renewed the emergency declaration via Executive Order 2019-12. The emergency declaration for the CNMI was initially declared in late October 2018 and has been renewed every month since.

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) pointed out that the emergency declaration served its purpose in assisting residents through recovery. He noted that the price freeze that took effect alongside the emergency declaration made gas prices in the CNMI relatively less expensive than the neighboring island of Guam.

"…The [emergency declaration] helped a lot of families during Super Typhoon Yutu, in the areas of gas prices," he said. "We've seen Guam's fuel prices go up, but we are still [sub-$4]. I think that is a big boost for families recovering, as well as preventing spikes in prices for goods that are needed for recovery."

The CNMI governor can only declare a price freeze after a state of disaster has been declared. It effectively "freezes" any form of price increase during a state of disaster and is also renewed on a monthly basis.

Regular gas currently goes for $3.94 by the gallon since the price freeze, while Guam's gas prices have already climbed to a high as $4.52 in mid-June 2019.

Sablan noted that the governor is required under Public Law 3-68, Section 403 to submit a report to the Legislature about the nature of the emergency, plans for addressing the emergency, and any funding that might be needed for the emergency.

She said there should be some clearer direction as to how to get out of the state of emergency and back to the CNMI's normal course of business.

"It's been one year since [the initial emergency declaration] and no reports have been submitted to this body pursuant to the Planning and Budgeting Act as to the governor's plans to rectify the emergency, justify the emergency, and any other action that might be taken…so that we can return to some state of normalcy," she said during discussions.

"It is well within our rights to question that and well within our rights to challenge [the emergency declaration]," Sablan added. She urged the House to consult with the legal counsel on ways to examine whether the "infinite" emergency declarations are justified as well as "proper courses of action" following that.

HANMI hotel occupancy at 66% in September

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported a 66.15% average occupancy rate among its 11 member-hotels in September 2019. The figure reflects a 15% decrease for HANMI hotels compared to September 2018.

A total of 48,607 of 73,484 available room nights sold during the month, compared to 58,321 of 71,790 available room night sold last September, a reduction of 16.7%. Average room rates continued to dip at $138.79 compared to $141.96 last September.

"Essentially, average hotel occupancy in September was back to 2012 levels, when the tourism industry and the Marianas economy was very [weak]," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh. "What we are seeing now is a series of converging circumstances causing fewer arrivals from our major source markets."

These factors include the trade war between China and the U.S., the devaluation of the yuan, protests in Hong Kong, dampening of the Korea economy, cessation of Russian visitor from discretionary parole authority, and reduction or closure of Marianas Visitors Authority marketing offices due to lack of funding.

"Some of these factors are outside our control, some can be addressed locally," Cavanagh added. "One of the best actions the Marianas can take to stem the bleeding and reboot revenue generation for the government is to properly fund the marketing programs of the MVA and not lose long-term investors like Fiesta Resort & Spa [Saipan] and Hyatt Regency Saipan, whose public land leases are about to expire. This, coupled with the anticipated start of direct flights from Japan this year, will help slow the drop in government and private sector revenue."

Hotels included in HANMI's monthly statistical reports are Aqua Resort Club, Aquarius Beach Tower, Century Hotel, GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Saipan World Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. ***(PR)***

OAG, NMC work to ensure compliance with new student aid policy for online students



NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE

From left, assistant attorney general Michele Harris, Northern Marianas College's Learning and Student Success dean Charlotte Cepeda, Attorney General Edward Manibusan, interim NMC president Frankie Eliptico, NMC Division of Learning and Student Success vice president Cynthia Deleon Guerrero, NMC Financial Aid director Daisy Manglona-Propst, and NMC Distance Learning Education coordinator William Hunter

Attorney General Edward Manibusan and the CNMI's consumer counsel, Michele Harris, recently met with Northern Marianas College officials to discuss measures for students possibly affected by new federal regulations.

The U.S. Department of Education recently announced that students enrolled in online programs at out-of-state colleges and universities may not be eligible for federal financial aid without a State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement. SARA is an agreement between member states, districts, and territories that establishes national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs.

The Office of the Attorney General's Office of Consumer Counsel will now oversee a complaint process for CNMI students who are enrolled in online programs at public or private nonprofit colleges and universities that are physically located in other states. This complaint process should bring the CNMI into compliance with the rule published by the U.S. Department of Education.

In addition, NMC is looking at other additional ways they can collaborate with other states to expand access to online programs for CNMI students.

"As the Commonwealth's consumer protection division, we are delighted to assist our students in receiving the financial aid they need to complete their college education," said Attorney General Edward Manibusan.

The Office of Consumer Counsel will oversee student complaints and other related matters. Effective September 2019, students enrolled in out-of-state online college programs can file complaints online at www.cnmioag.org, or call the Office of the Attorney General Office of Consumer Counsel, at (670) 237-7500. The complaint process applies to any and all complaints, including complaints about actions or events that occurred prior to this announcement.

The Office of Consumer Counsel will evaluate complaints, identify the appropriate accrediting agency or governmental entity to handle the complaint, and request a response from the entity regarding the final disposition of the complaint. If no response is received, the office will follow up with the agency to which the complaint was referred to determine the resolution, and if necessary, determine whether additional referrals are warranted. ***(OAG)***

Petition wants new course at NMC

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

A petition for the Northern Marianas College to develop a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources Management and Environmental Studies curriculum is doing its rounds in the CNMI.

Initiated by NMC alumna Zabrina Mae Shai, with Robert Deleon Guerrero and Jovahna Taitingfong, the petition has already gathered 79 signatures, plus six from environment professionals who have signified intention to teach under the program, if it pushes through.

"The need for this bachelor's program in the CNMI increases as more environmentalists emerge in our community, [such as] those who have graduated with their Associate in Science in Natural Resources Management degree, and those who are in the environmental workforce," said Shai.

Right now, NMC only offers an associate degree in Natural Resources Management, which Shai holds.

"A big number of us have already obtained our associate in science in natural resource management," Shai said. "So if we were to go to NMC, there is no further option for us. This is why we decided to do this petition."

The proposal states that the program would provide an understanding of the environmental challenges at the local, national, and international levels, as well as developing a more sustainable future in the CNMI.

The bachelor's program would also strengthen CNMI workforce capacity, specifically in compliance and monitoring, safety, environmental wellness and health, and environmental laws, regulations, and policies. It may also open up careers in management, consulting, and engineering services.

Shai, who works at the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, also believes that the community and the economy will benefit from the program.

"In our environmental agencies, there are a lot of people who are carrying [the AS] degree now who can further their education. They are dedicated and loyal to their job. They don't want to leave the island. They want to contribute to the community," Shai said.

The petition will be submitted to the NMC by the end of the year. To support the petition, email Shai at zabrinamae@gmail.com.

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Okeanos medical mission helps fight dengue outbreak in Yap

Non-profit organization Okeanos Foundation for the Sea recently joined the Yap State Health Crisis Task Force in combating the spread of dengue fever and leptospirosis that are now prevalent on Yap Island.

"We are grateful to Okeanos for their help with the emergency...because one big problem is the transportation of supplies and medical personnel to our remote communities," said John Gilmatam, chairman of the Yap State Emergency Health Task Force.

Days after the Yap State government announced a monthlong closure of public schools due to the dengue pandemic, Okeanos crew members were loading boxes of medical supplies provided by the Yap State Health Department onto their open-ocean sailing canoes.



Okeanos crew deliver medical supplies on the fossil fuel-free *vaka motu* to Ifalik atoll.

IVA VUNIKURA



Medicine designated for Yap outer islands are offloaded.

IVA VUNIKURA

On Sept. 4, two Okeanos *vaka motu* fossil fuel-free sailing canoes, *Okeanos Ambassador* and *Okeanos Waa'qab*, departed Yap Island to transport much needed medical supplies to remote neighboring island communities. More than a dozen local crew who have been trained to sail the *vaka motus* safely across the open ocean delivered medical supplies to all of Yap's neighboring island communities over the course of three weeks, along with food provisions the crews prepared for their families.

"It was a very successful trip in my opinion," said the Okeanos fleet commander, captain Peia Patai. "Our Okeanos *vaka motus* successfully delivered medical supplies to 17 islands which had no other way of being serviced as the state cargo ships were not operating at that time."

"I'm really proud to be taking part in helping out our people," said Okeanos crew member Nelson Chipelmal, who grew up on Lamotrek atoll sailing traditional Carolinian canoes. "The *vaka motus* are not here to replace our local canoes. They came here to encourage sailing and help transport people to wherever they need to go, especially in times of emergency."

As of Aug. 25, Yap has had 406 suspected cases of dengue fever and 91 confirmed cases, according to a situation report posted by the Yap State Government Public Information Service.

Children are the most vulnerable to dengue and the outbreak has overwhelmed health care workers in Yap, who are also contending with the re-emergence of hand, foot and mouth disease.



The fleet of Okeanos *vaka motus* arrive in Yap earlier this year to support sustainable sea transportation and regular services to Yap's outer islands.

ANTHONY TAREG

Recent scientific publications suggest that the infectious diseases like dengue are expected to increase further in many endemic and non-endemic regions due to the increasing global temperatures brought forth by climate change.

It is the mission of Okeanos Foundation for the Sea to support vulnerable island communities on the forefront of climate change by providing traditionally-based, sustainable sea transportation and professional open ocean sailing training. Okeanos' *vaka motus* provide a traditionally-based and environmentally-friendly solution to the lack of transportation facing outer islands in the Pacific, as some communities wait months to be serviced by cargo ships to deliver day-to-day essentials like food, cargo, or in this case, medicine.

The two Okeanos *vaka motus* currently operating in Yap are among the six 50-foot, single-masted, open-ocean sailing canoes built to meet day-to-day sea transportation needs in the Pacific islands. The *vaka motus* built since 2012 joined the eight *Vaka Moana*, 72-foot double-masted vessels previously built by Okeanos and now operated by voyaging societies in Fiji, Tahiti, Cook Islands, Samoa, New Zealand and Hawaii to revive traditional culture.

In August, the crew of the *Okeanos Marshall Islands vaka motu* completed medical runs to Arno Atoll for the Ministry of Health to help combat a tuberculosis outbreak on Majuro's neighboring island.

"I hope that we can look into ways that Okeanos can continue to help with healthcare to Yap's outer islands perhaps providing regular transport to those communities up to five times a year," said task force chair John Gilmatam, who is also the executive director and CEO of Wa'ab Community Health Center.

The Okeanos Foundation was invited to Yap State by Gov. Henry Falan. Okeanos was asked to imagine a partnership model for a *vaka motu* public transportation system to provide regular, safe and reliable transportation to Yap's remote neighboring communities.

An initial proposal for an Okeanos-managed *vaka motu* bus system was prepared with Yap's Executive Branch and submitted to Legislature for consideration but Okeanos has since requested that other organizational models be explored.

At this time, all parties and elected officials supporting the use of *vaka motus* to provide regular service to Yap's outer islands are requested to join the discussion for imagining the best model for traditionally-based sustainable sea transportation, capacity building and independence for the Yapese people.

For now, Okeanos continues training the local crew to be professional open-ocean sailors to safely and reliably meet their communities' urgent sea transportation needs.

"It was a good training trip for our local crews as we encountered many different kinds of weather" said Patai. "As we delivered medical supplies as part of the Emergency Task Force, we encountered some fierce winds that are typical this time of year but the crew knew how to seek shelter and properly anchor the *vakas* in the lagoons 'til the squalls passed over. I was very proud of how professionally our crews performed during this trip." ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE
P.O. BOX 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: 670.234.3878

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR
SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM (SART) MANAGER
(Temporary, 12 months)

NMCADSV is looking for a motivated individual to join its team! We are looking for someone who is rooted in service and believes in the social justice values we uphold.

Job Summary: The SART Manager will work with the Executive Director of NMCADSV, NMCADSV staff, and its Board to achieve the mission, goals, and objectives of the organization. The SART Manager will be primarily responsible for CNMI-wide systems advocacy to cultivate the prevention of sexual violence and victim-centered responses for victims of sexual assault. This includes taking a leadership role in facilitating cross-discipline collaboration, providing ongoing training and technical assistance to SART members and allied organizations, and obtaining feedback from all partners to develop policies and protocols that support victim-centered and empowerment-based responses to victims of sexual assault. In addition, the SART Manager will be responsible for convening monthly meetings on Saipan, attending SART related meetings on Tinian and Rota, and mandatory meetings and training events in the U.S.

Minimum Qualifications: An understanding of and agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence; strong communication skills, verbal and written, with diverse groups of people and professionals; strong organizational, collaborative, and project management skills; experience with training or providing education to various audiences; experience with facilitating meetings and bringing stakeholders together for collaborative efforts; ability to facilitate engagement and interest among allied partners with positive and professional communication; experience with assessments and analysis; ability to implement complex projects with extremely tight deadlines; must be able to travel within the CNMI and to the US Mainland immediately upon hire; must have access to reliable transportation; and must be able to work immediately upon offer.

Classification & Salary Range: Full Time, Exempt. Some nights and weekends required. Travel is required. $16.00/hr to $22.00/hr (based on experience and qualifications).

Copies of the full Position Description can be requested by email at info@endviolencenmi.org or downloaded from the NMCADSV Facebook page. Hard copies are also available at the NMCADSV Office (directions below).

To Apply: **A Resume and Cover Letter** should be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, October 25, 2019.** Provide a list (not copies) of any certifications and/or awards. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Submit **resume and cover letter** to info@endviolencenmi.org, deliver to NMCADSV's office **(between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.)** at the Marina Heights I Building (2nd Floor, Suite 206) or mail to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.) Applicants who are invited for an interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma or equivalent, Police Clearance (within last 30 days), valid Passport, and a list of references.

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer. Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, Grant Award #2019-WR-AX-0051. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB19-CHCC/ELC-003
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 18, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM
"LEASE VEHICLE - COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION - EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY CAPACITY (ELC)"]

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Saipan to host terrestrial conservation conference

Join experts in conservation and management from the CNMI and Guam at the 3rd Annual Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference & Workshop, which will be held on Nov. 18-20, at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

This will be the first time the conference will be held on Saipan. The conference was started by Dr. Haldre Rogers, a professor at Iowa State University, who saw the need for an actual scientific conference for scientists and researchers working on conservation issues in the CNMI and Guam.

Division of Fish and Wildlife's Jill Liske-Clark, one of the volunteer-organizers, said the conference is a chance for the CNMI public to hear about the researches and conservation programs on the islands.

Registration is free and open to the public, and will include presentations on terrestrial conservation, field trips and activities such as pre-conference proa rides and Mariana swiftlet field trip, and a lizard identification trip at American Memorial Park. To register, visit marianasterrestrialconservation.org. It also includes a birding trip, tree planting for Yutu recovery, Jeffrey's Beach tour, and native limestone forest hike.

For more information about the conference, or for donations (financial or in-kind) to help with organizational costs as well as to raise funds to enable students to travel to the conference to present their research, email Jill Liske-Clark at liskeclark.cnmidfw@gmail.com. ***(Iva Maurin)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

JKPL and Bookmobile resumes operations

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Bookmobile Outreach Services will resume normal operations today, Oct. 16, 2019. For the latest news and events, visit the JKPL website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page @joetenkiyupublicliblrary, Pinterest @ joetenkiyu, Snapchat @ joetenkiyu. The public library's normal hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday to Friday, 10am–6pm, and Saturday, 9am–4pm, and closed austerity Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. **(PR)**

Third writers' workshop set

Plan your novel with us. The third Marianas Writers' Movement workshop is on Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, from 1pm to 3pm. This workshop will focus on creating characters for the novel you'll write in November! Admission is free and open to people age 13 and over. Be a part of the Marianas Writers' Movement! This project is part of the "Rekindling Marianas Narratives: Write Your Novel!" mini-grant program and is made possible by support from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, a nonprofit, private corporation funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities. ***(PR)***

Master's degree options at UOG

Those considering a master's degree now or in the future will have an opportunity to explore 15 options available at the University of Guam through the university's Graduate Program Recruitment Fair this Thursday. The fair is open to the public and will take place from 4pm to 7pm in the Micronesian ballroom at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa.

The fair will feature tables for each of UOG's graduate programs and will also provide opportunities for attendees to speak first-hand with current graduate students and faculty. Financial aid and admissions assistance will also be available, including information on available scholarships and assistantships. Pupus will be provided.

The University of Guam offers the following master's degrees: Master of Arts in Counseling, Master of Arts in English, Master of Arts in Micronesian Studies, Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Education in Administration and Supervision, Master of Education in Reading (online degree program), Master of Education in Secondary Education, Master of Education in Special Education, Master of Education in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, Master of Public Administration, Master of Science in Biology, Master of Science in Clinical Psychology, Master of Science in Environmental Science, Master of Science in Sustainable Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, and Professional Master of Business Administration (available on-campus or online).

For more information, contact 735-2205 or graduatestudies@triton.uog.edu. ***(PR)***

SHRM meeting on Oct. 23

The Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter is inviting its members, associated HR and management staff, and interested members of the public to attend its next general membership meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 23, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Charley's Cabaret beginning at 11am.

The meeting will feature PSS Cooperative Education program coordinator Brandon Nicholas and Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence executive director Maisie Tenorio. This meeting is open to the public.

The presentation includes a lunch buffet at the cost of $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by email at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The NMI chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI chapter, visit their website at http://nmichapter.shrm.org. ***(PR)***

Saipan writers' workshop on Saturday

A Saipan writers' workshop called "Little Flights of Fancy" World Tour will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, to be led by local author Walt Goodridge.

In this interactive three-hour workshop, Goodridge will share step-by-step instructions on how to start your book project, publish independently, and go from idea to sales. Goodridge is author of over two dozen books in a variety of genres.

This unique workshop will be held from 9am to 12pm, at the JKPL's video teleconference room. Admission is $10 in advance, and $12 at the door (20% percent of admission proceeds will be donated to the library on the day of the event).

Seating is limited. To register, visit the front desk of the library as soon as possible. For more information, visit www.saipanwriters.com. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-029

MAUI 4 WATER TANK DEMOLITION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified contractors for the demolition of the Maui 4 Water Tank located in Sadog Tasi, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 9, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-029 Maui 4 Water Tank Demolition",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 25, 2019,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bids shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 15, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Acting Drinking Water/Wastewater Manager, Yvonne Cabrera via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-040

Waste characterization and Disposal - CUC Saipan Power Plant No. 1 and Rota Power Plant

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the Waste characterization and disposal - CUC Saipan power plant 1 and Rota power plant, the Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands.

Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the terms of Stipulated Order No.2 (SO 2).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A mandatory **site visit and pre-bid meeting** is scheduled on **October 10, 2019 at 10.00am (ChST)** at CUC Power Plant 1 Administration Building, Lower Base, Saipan, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "IFB-19-040: Waste Characterization and Disposal - CUC Saipan Power Plant No. 1 and Rota Power Plant" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **October 29, 2019 at 10.00 AM (ChST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 14, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Pranhakara, Utility Coordinator/ ATMO via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

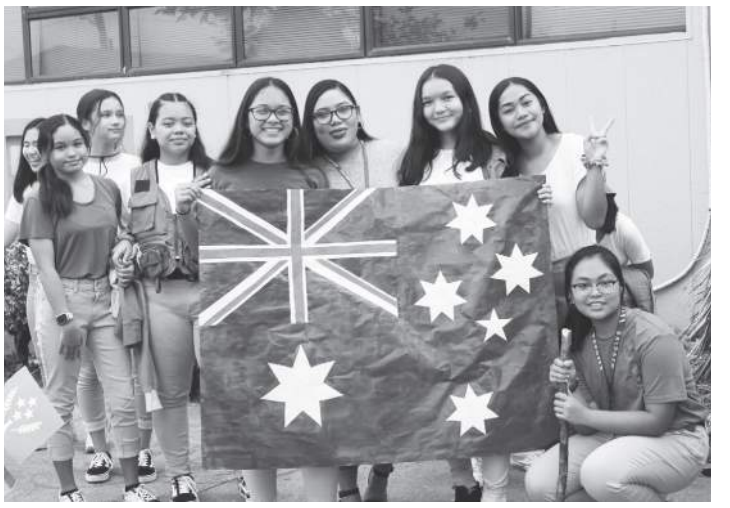
CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



















MCS celebrates Cultural Diversity Day

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As per its yearly observance of Commonwealth Cultural Day, when Mount Carmel School celebrates aspects of various cultures in the world, the school's student body came out in full force last Friday and reveled in cultural diversity at its campus with a show of various dances and traditions.

According to MCS Institutional Development director Victoria Deleon Guerrero, the importance of accepting cultural diversity is key among MCS students as it is one of the school's main principles.

"We usually celebrate our cultural diversity day before the actual Commonwealth Cultural Day, as this paves a way to show the students the importance of cultural diversity, which the CNMI openly accepts," she said.

Commonwealth Cultural Day was celebrated last Monday.

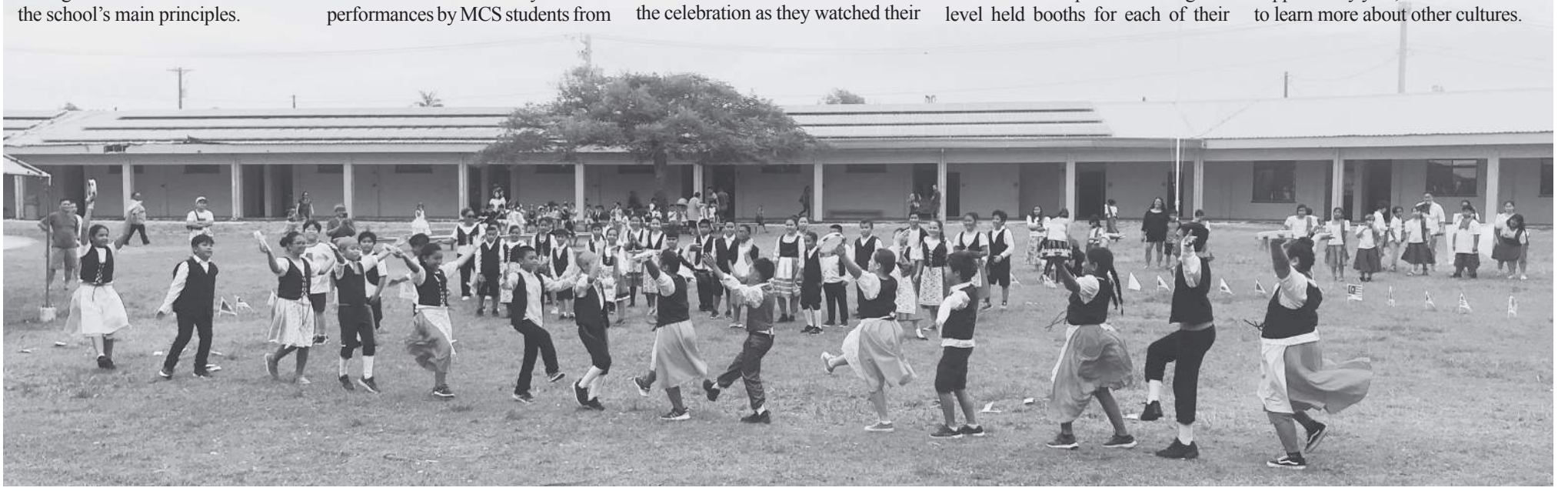
The first half of the day featured performances by MCS students from Kindergarten to 12th grade. Each grade was given a certain country, island nation, or state to represent. The countries that were part of the celebration were Palau, Japan, Korea, Italy, Polynesia, Mexico, India, Australia, the United Kingdom, China, Hawaii, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Parents also joined in the celebration as they watched their children perform cultural dances and chants.

Deleon Guerrero said that Achahaga, MCS' Chamorro Club, along with the various student clubs, also gave separate performances.

The second half of the school day was dedicated to field day activities for students and parents. Each grade level held booths for each of their respective countries to feature the delicacies and activities dedicated to a certain country.

An 11th grade MCS student said that this event is a great opportunity to expose the other students to cultures around the world, as this event creates a doorway where each grade level is given the chance to show others the background of a certain country.

Another student said that he has been with MCS since first grade and it is always great to see this event happen every year, as this is a chance to learn more about other cultures.



Mount Carmel School students, teachers, staff, and parents enjoyed the entirety of last Friday experiencing performances by students at the school's campus in Chalan Kanoa as part of the celebration of cultural diversity day.

MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL

Guam sailors join school in cleanup effort

By LTJG MEAGAN MORRISON
COMMANDER, SUBMARINE SQUADRON 15

BARRIGADA, Guam—Service members from multiple Guam-based commands including commander, Submarine Squadron 15, joined faculty and family from Guahan Academy Charter School during a school cleanup last Oct. 10.

More than 30 service members took part in the community outreach to help prepare the school grounds for new equipment and future soccer fields.

'This is a nice surprise for the students," said Tammy Terlaje, the school's special programs assistant. "We want to be able to provide our students with something new and longer lasting."

To help improve the playground, service members worked with the faculty and parent-teacher organization to remove tires, clear debris, and beautify the grounds. The volunteers removed more than 50 tires that had been filled with sand and placed in the ground.

Terlaje praised the military and parents for working together to make progress on the school grounds.

"We're seeing all of this progress because of the help we receive from the military commands around the island," said Terlaje. "Having the parents involved allows them to see that progress and how we're working to provide their children with better outdoor activities."

Guahan Academy Charter School is non-profit public school of the government of Guam that serves students from Kindergarten to 12th grade. Sailors on the island routinely help local schools throughout the year as part of the Joint Region Marianas Sister School, Sister Village community relations program.

The purpose of the program is to create, foster, and develop sustained positive relationships between the military and the local population.

"It's always a great experience being able to come out and help the community," said Torpedoman's Mate 2nd Class Curtis Branz, a native of Wallace, Idaho. "I enjoy working side by side with the parents and faculty to help improve the quality of the school for the students."

CSS-15 is located at Polaris Point, Naval Base Guam in Santa Rita, Guam, and includes four Los Angeles-class fast attack submarines.

The squadron staff is responsible for providing training, material and personnel readiness support to these commands. Also based out of Naval Base Guam are submarine tenders USS *Frank Cable* and USS *Emory S. Land*.

The submarines and tenders are maintained as part of the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed submarine force and are capable of meeting global operational requirements.

For more news from CSS-15, visit our official website at http://www.csp.navy.mil/css15 and our official Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/SubmarineSquadron15/.

Are you interested in taking orders to Guam? Want to learn more about the duty station and life on our island? For more information, check out the 'Go Guam!' website at http://www.csp.navy.mil/goguam/ and download the '1st Fifteen' checklist.



Military members from multiple Guam-based commands remove tires from the dirt during a community outreach project for the Guahan Academy Charter School.

U.S. NAVY/LTJG MEAGAN MORRISON

FOA stages Kipling classic *The Jungle Book*

The Friends of the Art's production of *The Jungle Book* starts this Friday, Oct. 18, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom, with four show dates that will all start at 7pm.

This play, adapted by Monica Flory from the stories of Rudyard Kipling, will be performed Friday and Saturday this week (Oct. 18 and 19) and Friday and Saturday next week (Oct. 25 and 26).

This family-oriented play, suitable for adults and youth of all ages, is co-directed by Susan Fishman-Tudor and Harold Easton and produced by Katie Hoyt for Friends of the Arts.

Taken from Rudyard Kipling's 1894 classic stories about Mowgli, the jungle boy, from the book to Walt Disney to over 260 theater productions around the world—and now to Saipan.

The Jungle Book tells the tale of Mowgli, the Indian boy raised by caring wolves, befriended by Baghera, the panther, and Baloo, the bear, and hunted by Shere Khan, the tiger.

In this adaptation of the classic story, young Mowgli grows up believing he's a wolf, the same as the other members of his pack. Then he learns he is actually a human and must reconcile these very different identities, and decide whether to remain with the pack, or return to the human world from which he was born. And all the while, he's being threatened by Shere Khan, the most feared animal in the jungle.

Tickets prices for all four shows start at $5 for students, $5 for Friends of the Arts members, and $10 for adults. Purchase tickets from members of the play's cast and at the door or reserve seats/tickets through Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com.

The public is invited to attend, bring their family and friends, and enjoy the show. The Friends of the Arts gives thanks to the Hyatt Regency Saipan and to its sponsors for their support.

The Friends of the Arts is a local community theater organization that promotes performing arts through hosting several plays each year. For more information or to make ticket reservations contact Gibson through email at flgibson@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center
Saipan, MP 96950

ADDENDUM NO. 1
DPW/SWMD19-RFP-005

OCTOBER 15, 2019

Marpi Landfill Operation and Maintenance

- General: The following revisions, additions, corrections, and/or clarifications to the specifications and drawings shall apply to the work affected thereby. Careful note of this Addendum shall be taken by the bidder/contractor, and all trades affected shall be fully advised of the information contained herein. In the event of a conflict between drawings, specifications and this Addendum, the contents of this Addendum shall govern. All further conflicts in the work resulting from, or caused by, the contents of this Addendum must be brought to the attention of the Contracting Officer for resolution. Failure to acknowledge this bid Addendum in accordance with instructions may subject your Proposal to rejection on the affected item(s)/service(s).

- Sealed Bid Proposal must be marked **"DPW/SWMD19-RFP-005."** Submission date is on October 16, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. is **Changed to October 23, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.** to the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

- **Can additional pages be submitted beyond the 25 page limit?**

Yes, additional pages maybe submitted as exhibits to support the required content and layout of the proposals. Examples: photos of Equipment to be used, plans, reference of experience i.e., certifications, accomplishments etc.

All other requirements of the Request for Proposals for this project package shall remain as stated.

/S/ 10/15/19
JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

/S/ 10/15/19
FRANCISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director, P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-036

MANNED SECURITY and ELECTRONIC MONITORING SERVICES

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive bids from qualified firms to provide Manned Security and Electronic Monitoring Services for various sites at CUC, Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of $200,000.00. The Contractor shall agree to and indemnify and hold CUC harmless from and against all liability, loss, damage or injury, and all cost and expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs of any suit related thereto) suffered or incurred by the Cooperative, arising from or related to Contractor's negligent performance under the contract.

Proponents shall provide a certification signed by a principal of the company stating that the company is currently in full compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal Labor Laws and has been for the past Five (5) years. Proponents shall submit a listing of all of its employees (US & Foreign) with corresponding job titles and a certification of good standing from the CNMI Department of Labor. Failure of the company to provide the certification is grounds to reject the entire Bid.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-036, Security Guard Services",* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST, Saipan Time) on October 25, 2019.** Late submissions of Bids will not be considered.

This Invitation for bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of Bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the Proponent, awarded a contract.

All Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the Bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a Bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 11, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Mafnas, CUC Contracting Specialist via email address john.mafnas@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 205

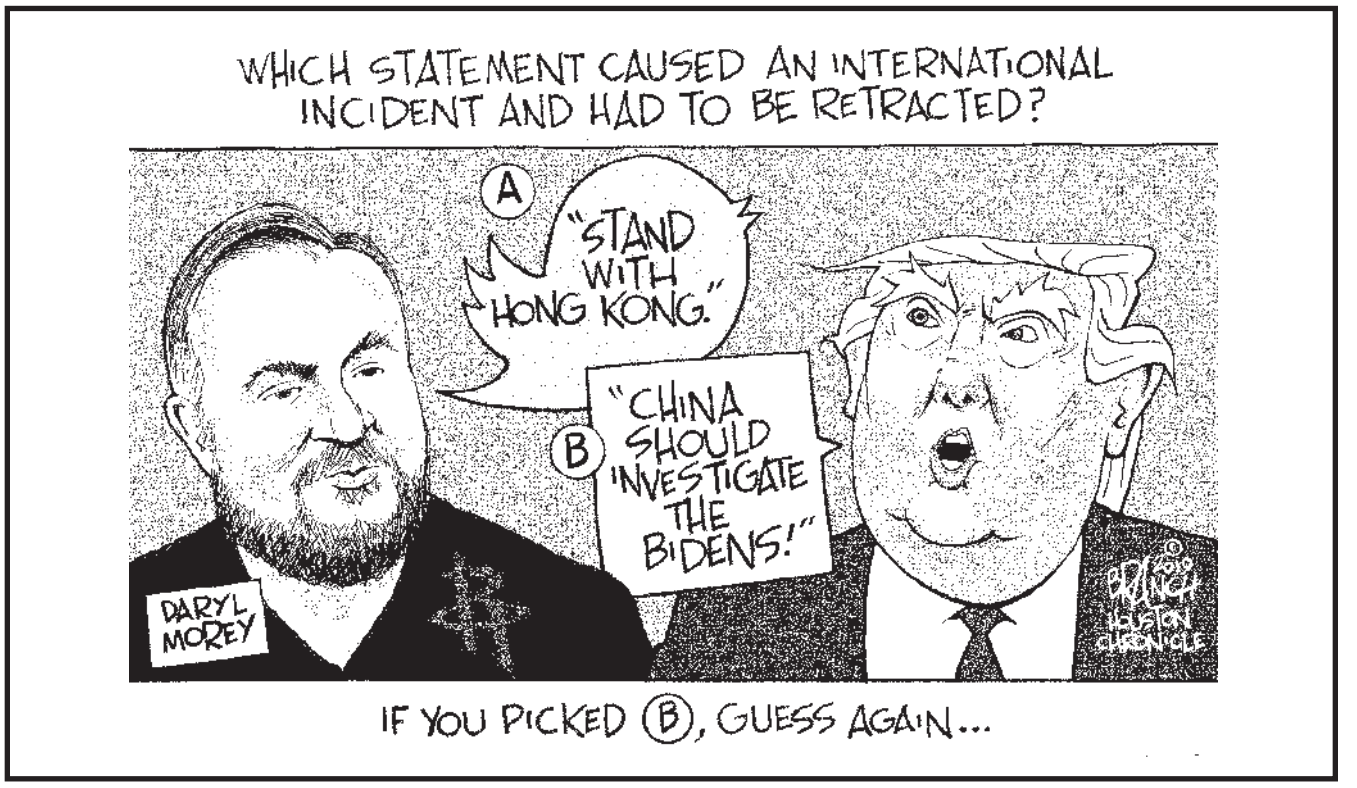
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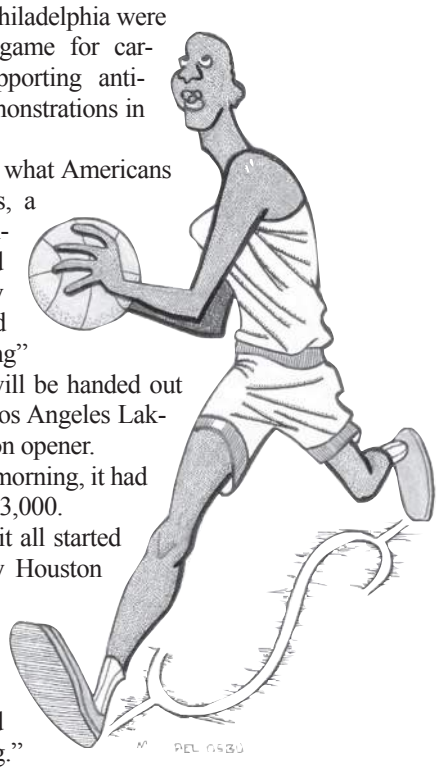
EDITORIAL

On Hong Kong, the NBA loves free speech as long as it doesn't cost anything

When it comes to sports, most people are thinking football this time of year. But last week will be remembered as an epochal week for the NBA.

The league that prides itself on being outspoken for liberal values basically adopted China's policy on free speech.

Players and coaches were not allowed to speak to media before or after preseason games in China. At a press conference in Japan, a CNN reporter was shut down for asking a problematic question.



Two fans in Philadelphia were kicked out of game for carrying signs supporting anti-government demonstrations in Hong Kong.

For a taste of what Americans think of all this, a GoFundMe campaign started raising money to print "Stand With Hong Kong" T-shirts. They will be handed out for free at the Los Angeles Lakers regular season opener.

As of Friday morning, it had raised almost $43,000.

And to think it all started with a tweet by Houston general manager Daryl Morey on Oct. 4:

"Fight for freedom, stand with Hong Kong."

China's Communist rulers were not pleased. They quickly cut or suspended partnerships with the NBA and sent the Rockets completely down the memory hole, removing all merchandise from stores and e-commerce sites.

Exporting its product to a customer base of 1.4 billion people is a core NBA business. The league quickly went into grovel mode, releasing a statement apologizing to China's offended fans.

The Chinese version called Morey's statements "inappropriate" and said the NBA was "extremely disappointed."

Morey deleted the tweet and apologized. Rockets owner Tilman Fertitta tweeted that Morey does not speak for the organization "we are NOT a political organization."

The NBA is apolitical?

That would be news to Charlotte, N.C., where the NBA pulled its 2016 All-Star Game because the state "bathroom

See NBA on Next Page

Shooting rampage is uniquely American



By REX HUPPKE
Chicago Tribune

Rex Huppke is a Chicago Tribune *columnist. Readers may send him email at rhuppke@chicagotribune.com.*

They were eating dinner when the shooting started.

That's a pretty American sentence, when you think about it.

Shootings just happen in this country. During dinner. During Mass. During parties and picnics. On shopping trips. At class. In movie theaters.

Four people were eating dinner Saturday night in a condo on Chicago's Northwest Side when a 66-year-old neighbor came in and opened fire.

The man, who police say had a history of confrontations with the building's residents, left the first condo and went to another, where he shot a 53-year-old woman.

All five victims, three men and two women, are dead. The alleged shooter, Krysztof Marek, was charged Monday morning with five felony counts of first-degree murder. And other neighbors in the condo complex are, of course, shaken.

Bill Popper, 67, has lived there for five years. He told the Tribune he's scared. And he summed up the tragedy in a way that struck me: "That's Chicago."

With respect to Mr. Popper, that's incorrect. Saturday's mass shooting isn't a Chicago thing, it's a uniquely American thing.

The Gun Violence Archive, a nonprofit group that tracks gun violence across the country, defines a mass shooting as one in which at least four people are either killed or injured.

By that metric, on the same day as Chicago's condo shooting, there were four other mass shootings in the country: one killed, three injured in Baltimore; six injured in Eastpointe, Mich.; one killed, three injured in Philadelphia; and four killed, three injured in Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Chicago victims are: a 66-year-old woman; a 61-year-old man; a woman in her late 30s; a man in his late 40s; and the 53-year-old woman.

On a street in Baltimore, a 20-year-old man died and three men—18, 22 and 23—were injured.

Outside a bar in Eastpointe, Mich., a 34-year-old man was shot in the head and five other customers were injured. The man was hospitalized in "very critical condition."

In Philadelphia, two gunmen, one who police believe was using a military-style rifle, shot four people. One, a 22 year old, was struck in the stomach and died in the hospital. One of those injured was a teenager.

Four men were shot dead at a Brooklyn gambling club and three others were injured and hospitalized.

That was just Saturday. Ten dead, 16 injured. And that's only shootings that involved four injuries or fatalities.

So you can't look at the mass shooting in Chicago's Dunning neighborhood and say, "That's Chicago."

Because it's everywhere.

According to the Gun Violence Archive's data, there have been 16 mass shootings in America this month. In Missouri, North Carolina, Kansas, Massachusetts, Colorado, Florida and the other states already mentioned. Twenty-five dead, 55 injured.

It's only the middle of the month.

In September, there were 37 mass shootings that left 46 dead and 117 injured. They happened in Ohio, Alabama, California, Wyoming, Louisiana, Connecticut, New Mexico and many of the states already mentioned. And again, those are only shootings in which at least four people are killed or injured.

Chicago has a massive violence problem, obviously. People are gunned down on our streets almost daily. The weekend death toll can be numbing.

But given the city's size, we're not statistically the most violent city in the country, not even close.

The broader problem is that we're a violent country, and when you couple that with an insane supply of firearms, you get mass shootings—everywhere.

Four people shot to death while eating dinner in their condo and a fifth gunned down in a neighboring unit by a Chicago man police say had a valid firearm owner identification card? That's not Chicago. That's America.

And that's the issue people seem unwilling to accept. Chicago is an easy bag to punch when politicians want to decry the "failure of Democrat-run cities" or make dishonest claims about tougher gun laws not working. And mass shootings like the one in Dunning make good leverage for NRA-backed politicians who want to lay the blame on mental health while never doing a thing to increase access to mental health care.

But it's not just Chicago. It's not just Democrat-run cities. It's everywhere. And if it hasn't visited your town or city or neighborhood directly, it will soon enough. At the school or around the dinner table, in the shopping mall or on the street, in the church or at the movie theater.

This is a national problem. It involves mental health, repeat gun offenders, assault-style rifles and high-capacity magazines no civilian should ever need and the endless flow of guns from states with lax purchasing requirements into American cities like Chicago.

A national problem requires a comprehensive solution. It requires a recognition of what's happening and a willingness to cooperate. It requires more than the feckless repetition of liberal or conservative talking points, which at this juncture is all we've got.

Chicago is a violent city that has struggled for decades on end with its own inability or unwillingness to address the problems that lead some to kill with ease.

But the mass shooting in Dunning, the senseless slaughter of five people by one man with a gun, is not Chicago.

It's America. The sooner people grasp that and demand better, the better chance we all have of surviving.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Asuntun Areglu!

Tradision tautau-ta establesau gi gualu` yan tasi (mantension familia) deste antigu na tiempu. Gi hilu` ina`ayuda `nai ma-establese adelantau na komunidat Chamorro.

Dispues, adumididi` matulaika `nai manhanau i naribu para i moseria. Mas libianu gi mantension familia ke papa` somnag. Lokue`, megai mas tautau-ta man-ma-eduka dispues de finagpu` gera.

Huli`e gi uttimun ha`ane i bisinu man-afaburese kinisechan gualu` yan kineni` tasi. Mansattun gi inafamauleg, ina`ayuda, yan inagofli`e!

Un` biahe huli`e un` tiahu ha chule` hina`men katne gi hilu` foggun ya ha golaye choda. `Nai masa hana` fañage bisinu un` tason. Gi la pupueñge mana`e `nos kuantus tininun hañgun ni bisinu.

Tai malefaghu ni hagas bisinu `nai achog dididi` asiga yan shoyu man-akubre hit pot pinepble. Agradesiyun na sensia gi dikiki` na komunida lau higante sensian ina`ayuda!

Chalan pinepble tat hoyun fache` tihu gacha` antes. Esta guaha `nai mesge lago`hu lau hu pañut pot solu tinaya` guinahan mame yan memegaiña na familia gi señgsuñg. Tiempun ha`ilas!

Haf` Mohon?

Guaha mumente areglun suetdun popble ni ma-ususune ni kase 15-mit na empleau guine. Huñgan, asuntun areglu ni dumiteni kualidat na linala` familia gi halum guma` gi enteru atkepetlagun iya Marianas.

I mediu suetdu na tiempu giya America ennau i $65,000 gi sakan—lau suetdun popble. Guine, lamayot patte gi empleau gumagana entalu` $15-mit esta $42-mit pesus gi sakan. Mas lataduñg na suetdun popble!

Mampus chagu` yan mediu suetdu guihe lagu. Gi mismu tiemplu mampus guaguan gastun nesessidat guine. Kase ti maput este na kuentas, no?

Maseha obligasion komprendiyun na gai minakat este na asuntu. Lau chatsaga ta mueba sin planu ginen i hegsu` I Deni`. Guaha planun miyu pot este na asuntun linahyan? Siña in` daña`e i publiku para u siña guaha oppan na kinemprende?

Linala`

Kuttura un` palabra pot modun linala` grupun tautau. Dos asuntu gi un` pahina dumaña`: kuttura yan liñguahe, pisu yan sahyan.

Ma`udai kuttura gi sahyan liñguahe `nai ma-adelanta usuña gi halum tautau-ta siha. Soluy sahyan komunikasion. Estague` umetablese inakomprende yan ina`ayuda gi tautau-ta siha.

Tradision-ta i relihion Katoliku ni ma-establese guine gi tiempun Español. Mauleg na dibosion gi tautau-ta ni umonra linala` espirituat piot gi tiempun kuaresma.

Gi katkuet biahe siempre man-finu` Chamoru hit gi menan lamasan San Pedro gi uttimu hinisgan para i lañget `sino sasalaguan. Deste tutuhun esta i uttimu suspirus gaige usun liñguahita.

Diberas

Ansianu na kinalamten pa`gu pot presetbasion usun finu` Chamorro. Hu hassu tiempoghu gi high school `nai guaha muttan salape` `an magacha` hau fuminu Chamorro.

Pa`gu kulan sisitan ta soyu` famaguonta umusa liñguahen niha. Propiu! U guaha mohon kinentra `an fuetsau tana` fan finu` Chamorro kontodu Chinu siha guine?

Tinilaika

Kinalamten maseha haye na grupun tautau siempre u matulaika kutturaña gi karera. Manaigue hit esta guihe na tiempu `nai hita solu—Chamorro yan Karolinas—mañasaga gi hagas soñgsuñg siha.

Lau fitme sentimentog-hu na i natibu siempre ha gu`ut yan susteni haf` kutturaña—modun linalaña—Chamoru. Kulan hinanau atdau diariamente ni kahulu` `an oga`an ya machum gi lemlem tautau. Doku` ta`lu gi sigiente oga`an, ti mamagtus!

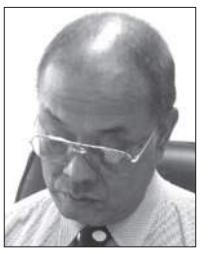
Tinilaika u kontinuague` lau i sustansian natibu fitme sagaña giya hita ni tautau tanu`. Susteni liñguahe!

Ineyag

Matuñgu ni famaguon-hu bisñietu(ta) na debi u fan finu` Chamorro gi fihon-hu. Maseha lamegai eklau na liñguahe hu hungug estaya adumididi` sige ma-usa hila` nanan niha.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.



Agradesiyun i animu maketuñgu` liñguahen niha. Guaha `nai hu rasgueo dandan-hu` ukulele para bai` na` inadotna ineyag niha finu` Chamorro. Ai na manadan chaleg este na dinaña`.

Mama` malate` unu ya ilegña na tai bali finu` Chamorro. Hu faisen para u atan gaput-iluña kau betmehu. Muchumas, debi u banidosu gi haf` kabales tinateña. Estague` muna` babale i tautau—un` abiba sustansiamu—kumu natibu!

Sagu

Guaha `nai chatfelis finattun notisia `sino mensahe ginen hiyuñg. Mauleg `an ilegña ti apmamyu` guatu yan impanada. Lau ti apmamyu` guatu ya ta falag i interu. A` Saina!

`Nai makombida ham para guput kompleañus mafueguyu` na maulegña bai saga `sino `osun`yu` ni burukan famaguon. Ke lau na ti patte famaguon gi un` namagof na okasion?

Guput

Hu soda` si Magu gi kotte ume`e-abugau. Era, esta dos asaguaña ni achacha dadau kulan mañagun manog. O`sun mamula` gaput ulu `an umagaput i dos punideraña `an oga`an.

Uttimoña lalalu` i unu ya ha kaikaigue`. Esta ti obra si Magu fumatta na dos punideraña gi gima`. Piot `nai masañgane na illigat dos asagua gi un` guma` ya ti menus ke sais mesis gi presu. Dimoñu!

Getting the most out of T.O.A.S.T.

T.O.A.S.T. - Timeless Old Age Senior Tales
TOAST - is a sonnet series; an old age roast
TOAST - a daily morning bread
TOAST – a drink to honor someone's head
TOAST - you are done with it, it is dead.

She Knows When the Rooster Crows

My wife said do you hear the rooster crowing
I do but can't see outside it is still very dark
get up though its time for sowing and growing
rise up and soar with the morning meadow lark.
Venus is shining brightly in the Eastern sky
a pair of pure white chungé birds just flew by
maybe the rooster is crowing about love past
and all the biddy hens that he can remember
our love seems strong enough that it will last
as we grow old, cold, and snowy like December
I know you still love and care for me she said
I love the sonnet you wrote about us yesterday
so rest a little longer and come back to bed
like rooster and hen we crow, cackle, and play.

Elegy for an Unseen Senior Selfie

"Wherever there is life, there must be death,
sooner or later we'll breathe our last breath."
—Chinese poet Tao Qian (365-427), Six Dynasties

These days people know we are alive by reading our posts
where in the world is my senior SELFIE being seen so far away
when we are not on line we become like cyber ghosts
if its not DELETEd repeatedly on line how long will it stay.

Facebook friends show themselves and family on vacation
with some gain, some loss of privacy, if I don't see I can't care
deleting presence of others after assessing each situation
my phone and PC are off line so now no button to SHARE.

Thousands of MEMES, posts and REPLYs will pass away
music from guitars, vinyl records and old radio transistors
along with offline memories of friends yesterday and today
acoustic, baroque, and classical music brothers and sisters.

Cyber space is filled with meaningful and nonsense MEMES
SELFIES get lost and then forgotten in our real life daydreams.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



NBA

From Page 10

bill" blocked requirements for transgender bathrooms.

"I see hypocrisy," former North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory told the Charlotte Observer. "They wanted to involve themselves with North Carolina commerce and an election, while not setting the same standard for China."

The NBA is hardly the first corporation to put profit over principle. That's the cost of doing business in China.

The unsavory balancing act goes all the way to the White House. CNN reported that President Trump, in hopes of nailing down a trade deal, assured Chinese president Xi Jinping in June that the U.S. would stay quiet about Hong Kong.

In that sense, he's finally found common ground with Gregg Popovich. San Antonio's coach has called Trump a "soulless coward," but he's declined to say a unkind word about Xi and the crackdown in Hong Kong.

Unlike other corporations, the NBA brands itself a moral leader on social issues. Commissioner Adam Silver was asked last year if the NBA was "the wokest pro league?"

"I understand that sentiment," he said, "and we're proud of that."

China doesn't do woke. Players and coaches who've protested America's social ills have gone silent this week. Speaking up would endanger billions of dollars, revenue that is split between players and owners.

"I'm going to comment on things that I feel comfortable speaking about," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said.

It's not that complicated. Hong Kong police are beating and tear-gassing people who want the freedoms we have in America.

Social media companies have been criticized for kowtowing to China, but most U.S. corporations have escaped serious public scrutiny in their dealings with Beijing. The Hong Kong protests have awakened the world to China's repression.

People are noticing things like the NBA building one of its three Chinese "NBA Academies" in Xinjiang province. That's where a million Uighurs, a Turkic-speaking minority of Muslims, are held in "reeducation camps."

If the camps didn't have transgender bathrooms, perhaps the NBA would have said something.

The league is making the NFL look like a social justice thought leader. Colin Kaepernick's national anthem protests split America along political lines, but everybody is blasting the NBA kneeling to China.

Eight members of Congress sent an open letter to Silver calling for the league to suspend activity in China.

Congratulations, NBA. When you get Ted Cruz and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to sign the same letter, you've really accomplished something.

The backlash should make every corporation rethink its complicity with China. It's a complex issue that requires pragmatism mixed with principles. But Hong Kong has been a clarifying event.

The protesters say you are either for us or against us.

You are either for freedom of speech or against it.

When money is on the line, we now know where the NBA stands.

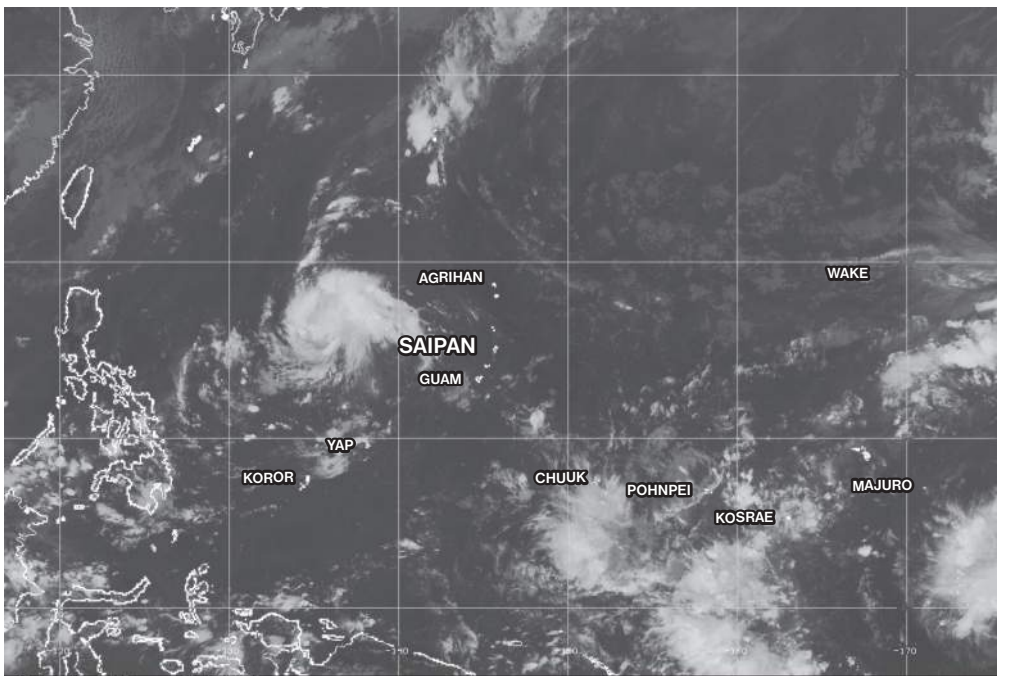
(c)2019 The Orlando Sentinel (Orlando, Fla.)

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east to northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:46 AM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms persist across the area this morning as east winds merge with southeast winds north of a surface trough. Buoys show seas of 5 to 6 feet in the region.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	87° / 76°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	63° / 55°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 45°
Hong Kong	Sunny	84° / 73°
Honolulu	Showers	85° / 75°
London	Showers	61° / 46°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	85° / 62°
Manila	Thunderstorm	91° / 77°
Melbourne	Showers	59° / 46°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
New York	Rain	67° / 51°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 64°
Paris	Showers	63° / 55°
Busan	Cloudy	72° / 63°
Rome	Sunny	72° / 54°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 45°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 53°
Seoul	Sunny	66° / 45°
Tokyo	Showers	72° / 59°
Washington, DC	Rain	66° / 50°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:54 AM	LOW TIDE	0.11
9:17 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.76
3:11 PM	LOW TIDE	0.80
8:33 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.75

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:08 AM	5:56 PM
Thursday	6:08 AM	5:55 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Sunday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:49 AM	7:42 PM
Thursday	-	8:40 AM	8:25 PM
Friday	-	9:33 AM	9:12 PM
Saturday	-	10:28 AM	10:04 PM
Sunday	-	11:24 AM	10:59 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:57am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:07am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Bitoy's Barbecue moves to Sugar King Park

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



MARK RABAGO
Bitoy's Barbecue owner Reynaldo Faustino, left, poses with staff at the stall's new location at the Sugar King Park in China Town.



MARK RABAGO
Reynaldo Faustino is still hands on when it comes to grilling Bitoy's Barbecue's offerings.

Filipino barbecue is known for being on the sugary side of sweet. So Bitoy's Barbecue couldn't have picked a better place to relocate its business when it moved to the Sugar King Park in China Town.

Bitoy's Barbecue enjoyed sort of a cult following in the south of Saipan where Reynaldo Faustino opened the food stall in October 2017 with $3,000 of his own money.

"It was a small stand located in San Antonio. I decided to open this business because it is always my passion to provide good products to customers. In 1998, I worked for a barbecue company that was selling at the Street Market," he said.

Faustino, who everybody now calls Bitoy (an affectionate Filipino nickname) because of how popular his business has become, said he was motivated to be an entrepreneur when he surprisingly made the front page of one of the local newspapers.

"One time, there was a journalist who came at the Street Market to cover an event. The next day, I saw my picture in the newspaper busy barbecuing and surrounded by tourists. That inspired me to do the barbecue business."

A year into the operations of Bitoy's Barbecue, however, disaster struck when Super Typhoon leveled a large portion of Saipan, especially its south side and one of the casualties was Faustino's barbecue stall.

It was a total loss, as Bitoy's Barbecue was reduced to kindling and all the meat Faustino was marinating had to be thrown away.

Faustino was ready to move on and even applied for a job at Joeten-Ace Hardware, but his loyal customers kept egging him on to reopen Bitoy's Barbecue.

"They kept saying, 'Reopen your barbecue business again. You already have a loyal following and it would be a pity if you give up because your barbecue was really tasty,'" he said.

Good thing, the Saipan Mayor's Office had several stalls open at the CNMI-Japan Cultural Center in China Town and, for a relatively affordable monthly rental, Faustino decided to make it Bitoy's Barbecue's new home.

"We used to average 150 sticks of barbecue a day and now we're selling more than double that," he said, overjoyed by Bitoy's Barbecue's success at the new location.

The barbecue stall's best-sellers continue to be its roasted pork belly or liempo and roasted whole chicken. It also sells a variety of barbecue such as pork stick, chicken stick, pork ears, pork intestine (isaw), hotdog on a stick, and chicken leg quarters.

Faustino's customers also like his grilled tilapia, grilled milkfish, and grilled squid that are stuffed with fresh tomatoes, onions, and other spices.

"Bitoy's Barbecue serves customers with a passion. We make sure that customers are happy with our services and products. We always talk to them personally and reply to their messages, making sure we hear each and every one of them. That's how we value our customers," he said.

Bitoy's Barbecue is open every day from 12:30pm to 8:30pm. For orders and for more information, call (670) 286-2370.

3 economists who study poverty win Nobel Prize

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Two researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a third from Harvard University won the 2019 Nobel Prize in economics on Monday for groundbreaking research into what works and what doesn't in the fight to reduce global poverty.

Full Coverage: Nobel Prizes

The award went to MIT's Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo, and Harvard's Michael Kremer. The 46-year-old Duflo is the youngest person ever to win the prize and only the second woman, after Elinor Ostrom in 2009.

The three winners, who have worked together, revolutionized developmental economics by pioneering field experiments that generate practical insights into how poor people respond to education, health care and other programs meant to lift them out of poverty.

"Without spending some time understanding the intricacies of the lives of the poor and why they make the choices they make ... it is impossible to design the right approach," Duflo told a news conference held by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which awarded the prize.

Their work in rural Kenya and in India, for instance, found that providing more textbooks, school meals and teachers didn't do much to help students learn more.

Making the schoolwork more relevant to students, working closely with the neediest students and holding teachers accountable—by putting them on short-term contracts, for example—were more effective in countries where teachers often don't bother showing up for work. The winners' recommended program of remedial tutoring is now benefiting 5 million Indian children, the academy said.

Kremer and others found that providing free health care makes a big difference: Only 18% of parents gave their children de-worming pills for parasitic infections when they had to pay for them, even though the heavily subsidized price was less than $1. But 75% gave their kids the pills when they were free. The World Health Organization now recommends that the medicine be distributed for free in areas with high rates of parasitic worm infections.

Banerjee, Duflo and others found that mobile vaccination clinics in India dramatically increased the immunization rates compared to traditional health centers that often went unstaffed. The immunization rate rose further if parents received a bag of lentils as a bonus for vaccinating their children.

Banerjee and Duflo, who are married, also found that microcredit programs, which provide small loans to encourage poor people to start businesses, did little to help the poor in the Indian city of Hyderabad; studies in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Morocco, Mexico and Mongolia, produced similar results.

Despite enormous progress, global poverty remains a huge challenge, the academy noted. More than 700 million people live in extreme poverty. Five million children die before age 5, often from diseases that can be prevented or cured easily and inexpensively. Half the world's children leave school without basic literacy and mathematical skills.

Still, Kremer sounded a note of hope.

Do California power shutoffs work? Hard to know, experts say

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Millions of Californians spent part of the week in the dark in an unprecedented effort by the state's large electrical utilities to prevent another devastating wildfire. It was the fifth time Pacific Gas & Electric Co. has preemptively cut the power but by far the largest to date in the utility's effort to prevent a deadly wildfire sparked by its power lines.

But do the power shut-offs actually prevent fires?

Experts say it's hard to know what might have happened had the power stayed on, or if the utility's proactive shutoffs are to thank for California's mild fire season this year.

"It's like trying to prove a negative," said Alan Scheller-Wolf, professor of operations management and an energy expert at Carnegie Mellon's Tepper School of Business. "They can't prove they prevented a disaster because there's no alternative universe where they didn't try this."

The winds that prompted the mass outage that affected about 2 million people in northern and central parts of the state shifted southward by Thursday, where a wind-driven wildfire led officials to order the evacuation of 100,000 people from their homes in foothills of the San Fernando Valley.

California is experiencing the first major fire activity of the season after two years that brought some of the most devastating fires on record, many of them caused by utility equipment. Until Monday, fires had covered only about 5% of the acreage burned by that date last year, and only about 13% of the average for the last five years.

But it's too early—and maybe impossible—to tell if that can be attributed to increased measures to cut power.

"We have good reason to be skeptical, and the reason is that PG&E bears the costs of starting a fire, but they don't bear the costs of shutting off power," said Severin Borenstein, faculty director of the Energy Institute at University of California, Berkeley's Haas School of Business.

He noted that weather forecasting is notoriously difficult, "so even if PG&E were doing the best possible job, it would not get it right sometimes."

Marybel Batjer, president of the California Public Utilities Commission, which regulates PG&E, blasted the company Monday for "failures in execution" during the outage. She ordered a series of corrective actions, such as setting a goal of restoring power within 12 hours instead of its current 48 hours, minimizing the scale of outages and improving communication.

PG&E said in a statement Saturday that employees located 50 spots where parts of its systems were damaged during the strong winds, and repairs were either completed or underway at those sites.

Gov. Gavin Newsom blasted PG&E for what he called decades of mismanagement, underinvestment and lousy communication with the public. In a letter sent Monday to Bill Johnson, PG&E's president and CEO, Newsom urged the utility to compensate affected customers with a bill credit or rebate worth $100 for residential customers or $250 for small businesses.

Nation

Woman killed by Texas officer was devoted to family

DALLAS (AP)—Atatiana Jefferson was devoted to her family and had moved into her mother's Fort Worth home earlier this year to help as her mom's health declined, relatives said.

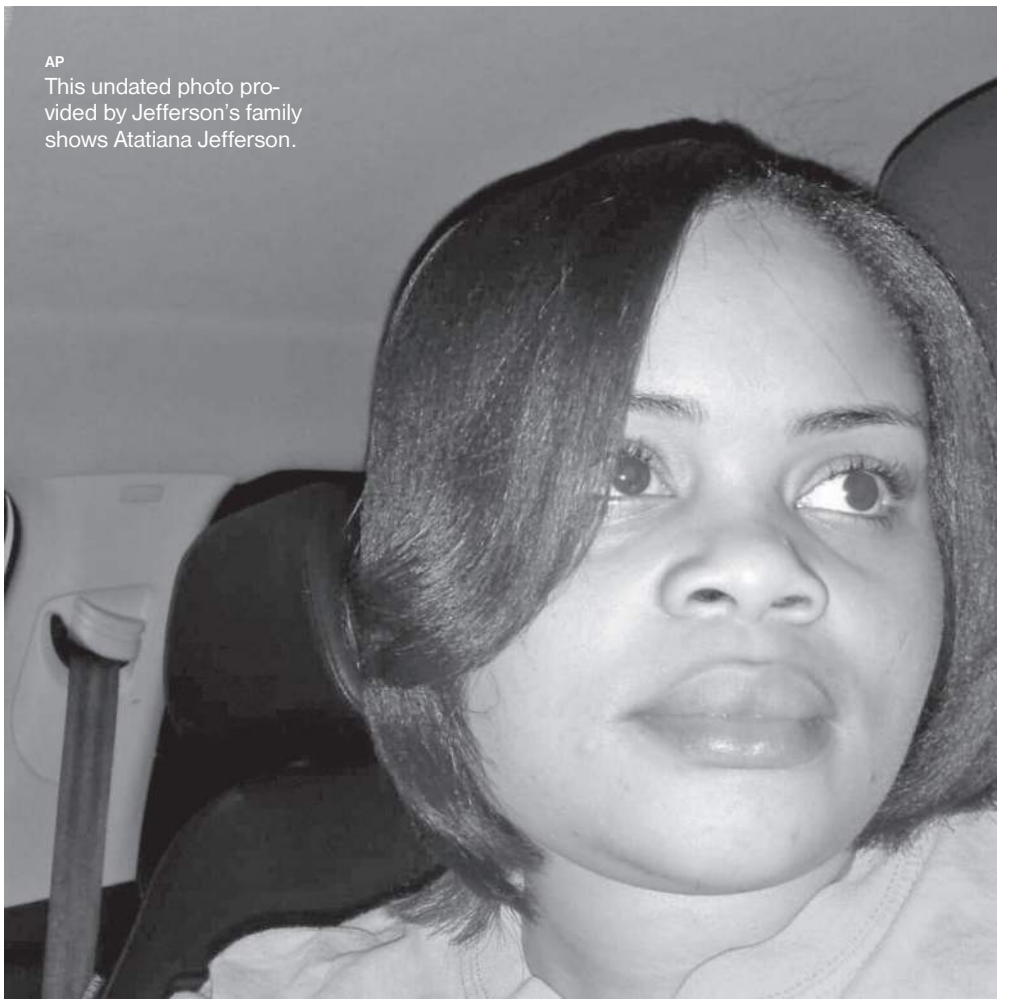
With her mother in the hospital, Jefferson and her 8-year-old nephew were the only two people home early Saturday when a police officer fired a gunshot through a back window, killing Jefferson.

The 28-year-old Jefferson, who family members sometimes called "Tay," and her nephew had devoted their night to Call of Duty and were still up playing the video game when the officer shot. They had the front door of the home open to let the cool breeze in, said Lee Merritt, an attorney for Jefferson's family.

"They did that all night — from sunset until the time that they lost track of time ... when they heard someone prowling around in the bushes," Merritt said during news conference with her family Monday.

"He and his Auntie Tay experienced the fear of someone prowling in the backyard," Merritt said. "His Auntie Tay did not allow him to check the window, she checked herself."

The white Fort Worth officer, responding to a call from a neighbor who was concerned about the open door, fired a split-second after shouting at the black woman to show her hands. Police bodycam video shows the officer didn't identify himself as police.



AP
This undated photo provided by Jefferson's family shows Atatiana Jefferson.

He resigned Monday and was later charged with murder.

Amber Carr said her sister, Jefferson, loved spending time with her nephews.

"My sister, the relationship she has with my sons is undescribable. Sometimes people think that they are her kids and not mine," said Carr, who also has a 4-year-old son.

She said the last time she spoke to her sister was a week before she was killed.

"She came to the hospital in Plano where I was recovering from a major heart surgery. She came and brought me food, she brought me a new cellphone," Carr said at the news conference.

Jefferson loved playing basketball and video games with the 8-year-old, but she also helped him understand he had to be responsible for getting himself ready for school each morning and wrote out a schedule so he could be organized, Carr said.

"She helped him become more independent and self-sufficient," she said.

Jefferson grew up in the Dallas area. She graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana in 2014 with a bachelor's degree of science in biology, and her family said she worked from home selling medical equipment.

Another sister, Ashley Carr, who read from a statement prepared by the family, described Jefferson as "a smart, ambitious, kind person with an adventurous spirit." She also called her a hard worker.

She was good about saving money, the family said after the news conference. They had been paying someone to cut the grass at the mother's home, but Jefferson bought a lawn mower and weed eater when she moved in and even taught her nephew how to mow.

When Carr picked the 8-year-old up at a facility where police had taken him after Jefferson was killed, it was the boy who told his mother about the shooting.

In the days since, the child has been the one comforting his mother. Carr said she can see Jefferson's loving influence in the boy's actions.

"In the middle of the night when I'm crying, he wakes up and tells me to breathe in my nose and out my mouth," Carr said at the news conference. "He holds me, he hugs me."

Former White House adviser objected to ambassador's ouster

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fiona Hill, a former White House adviser on Russia, told House impeachment investigators behind closed doors Monday that she had strongly and repeatedly objected to the ouster earlier this year of former ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, according to a person familiar with the testimony.

Yovanovitch testified Friday that President Donald Trump pressured the State Department to fire her.

Hill made the remarks as she testified for more than 10 hours in the Democratic inquiry, which is probing Trump's pleas to Ukrainian officials for investigations into political rival Joe Biden's family and into the country's involvement in the 2016 presidential election. The person requested anonymity to discuss the confidential interview.

The interview is one of what could eventually become dozens of closed-door depositions in the impeachment probe. There are five more scheduled this week, mostly with State Department officials, though it is unclear if they will all appear after Trump declared he wouldn't cooperate with the probe.

While interviews have focused on the interactions with Ukraine, the probe could broaden as soon as next week to include interviews with White House budget officials who may be able to shed light on whether military aid was withheld from Ukraine as Trump and his lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, pushed for the investigations.

The three committees leading the probe are seeking interviews next week with Russell Vought, acting director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Michael Duffey, another OMB official who leads national security programs, according to a person familiar with those requests. That person wasn't authorized to discuss the invitations and requested anonymity.

The packed schedule of interviews comes as Democrats are methodically working to pin down the details of Trump's pressure on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy. Once Democrats have completed the probe, and followed any other threads it produces, they will use their findings to help determine whether to vote on articles of impeachment. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she wants the committees to move "expeditiously."

Democrats have already obtained documents and testimony that verify parts of an original whistleblower's complaint that launched the probe. A cache of text messages between three diplomats provided by one of the inquiry's first witnesses, former Ukrainian envoy Kurt Volker, detailed attempts by the diplomats to serve as intermediaries around the time Trump urged Zelenskiy to start the investigations into a company linked to Biden's son. Yovanovitch told lawmakers there was a "concerted campaign" against her based on "unfounded and false claims by people with clearly questionable motives."

One of the diplomats in the text exchanges, U.S. ambassador Gordon Sondland, is expected to appear for a deposition under subpoena Thursday. He's expected to tell Congress that his text message reassuring another envoy that there was no quid pro quo in their interactions with Ukraine was based solely on what Trump told him, according to a person familiar with his coming testimony.

Also up this week: Michael McKinley, a former top aide to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo who resigned last week. McKinley, a career foreign service officer and Pompeo's de facto chief of staff, resigned Friday, ending a 37-year career. He is scheduled to testify behind closed doors Wednesday.

The committees are also scheduled to talk to Deputy Assistant Secretary of State George Kent on Tuesday and Ulrich Brechbuhl, a State Department counselor, on Thursday. On Friday, the lawmakers have scheduled an interview with Laura Cooper, who is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia. It is unclear if any of those officials will show up after Trump's vow of non-cooperation.

ACROSS THE NATION

Columbus statues vandalized on US holiday named for him

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Several Christopher Columbus statues were vandalized with red paint and messages against the 15th century Italian navigator Monday when the U.S. holiday named for one of the first Europeans to reach the Americas was being celebrated. A statue in Providence, Rhode Island, was splashed from head to toe Monday with red paint, and a sign reading "Stop celebrating genocide" was leaned against the pedestal. The word "genocide" was written in orange paint on the rear of the pedestal. The statue has been the target of vandals on Columbus Day in the past. A spokeswoman for Mayor Jorge Elorza said the statue will be cleaned Monday. A Columbus statue in the Southern California city of Chula Vista was also defaced Monday with red paint. A Chula Vista police officer discovered the defaced Columbus statue in the city's Discovery Park.

Northern California man held in quadruple killing

MOUNT SHASTA, Calif. (AP)—A Northern California man has been arrested on suspicion of killing four people after he showed up at a police station with a body in his car. Police in Mount Shasta says the man turned himself in Monday afternoon and told authorities he had killed people at his apartment in Roseville, more than 200 miles away. Roseville police say they found three other bodies at the apartment. Police say it appears the man knew the victims. The names of the suspect and the victims and details of the killings haven't been released.

Police: Chicago man who killed 5 wrote threatening notes

CHICAGO (AP)—A Chicago man who gunned down five of his neighbors over the weekend had had angry run-ins with his fellow tenants and left threatening notes on the inside of his door suggesting he was planning an act of violence, authorities said Monday. Investigators haven't determined the exact reason why 66-year-old Krysztof Marek allegedly shot his neighbors on Saturday. According to police, he shot four of them as they were sitting down for dinner and then entered another woman's apartment, shot her in the abdomen and then followed her as she fled out of her back door and shot her in the head. During a hearing Monday in Cook County Circuit Court, prosecutors said they found two threatening notes written in Marek's native Polish language that were taped inside the door of his northwest side apartment. One of the notes read: "No mercy. Remember whatever s--- they do to you, you control it yourself, not them. Enough. They have to pay for it."

Asia

Japan looks for missing after typhoon kills dozens

NAGANO, Japan (AP)—Rescue crews dug through mudslides and searched near swollen rivers Monday as they looked for those missing from a typhoon that left dozens dead and caused serious damage in central and northern Japan.

Typhoon Hagibis unleashed torrents of rain and strong winds Saturday, leaving thousands of homes on Japan's main island flooded, damaged or without power.

A riverside section of Nagano, northwest of Tokyo, was covered with mud, its apple orchards completely flooded and homes still without electricity.

Japan's Kyodo News agency reported that 48 people died from the typhoon, 17 were missing and some 100 were injured.

The government's Fire and Disaster Management Agency, which is generally more conservative in assessing its numbers, said 24 people were dead and nine were missing.

Experts said it would take time to accurately assess the extent of damage, and the casualty count has been growing daily.

Hagibis dropped record amounts of rain for a period in some spots, according to meteorological officials, causing more than 20 rivers to overflow. In Kanagawa prefecture, southwest of Tokyo, 100 centimeters (39 inches) of rain was recorded over 48 hours.

Some of the muddy waters in streets, fields and residential areas have subsided. But many places remained flooded Monday, with homes and surrounding roads covered in mud and littered with broken wooden pieces and debris. Some places normally dry still looked like giant rivers.

Some who lined up for morning soup at evacuation shelters, which are housing 30,000 people, expressed concern about the homes they left behind. Survivors and rescuers will also face colder weather, with northern Japan turning chilly this week.

Soldiers and firefighters from throughout Japan were deployed to assist with rescue efforts. Helicopters could be seen plucking some of the stranded from higher floors and rooftops of submerged homes.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the government would set up a special disaster team, including officials from various ministries, to deal with the fallout from the typhoon, including helping those in evacuation centers and boosting efforts to restore water and electricity to homes.

"Our response must be rapid and appropriate," Abe said, stressing that many people remained missing and damage was extensive.

Damage was especially serious in Nagano prefecture, where an embankment of the Chikuma River broke.

In one area, a few vehicles in used car lots were flipped over by the waters that had gushed in, covering everything with mud. Apples swept from the flooded orchards lay scattered in the mud.

Areas in Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures in northern Japan were also badly flooded.

In such places, rescue crew paddled in boats to reach half-submerged homes, calling out to anyone left stranded.



AP

Michiko Yoshimura, left, bows to her neighbor as they comfort each other while cleaning up her home damaged by Typhoon Hagibis Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019, in Nagano, Japan.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Australia deports woman to Vietnam over smuggled pork

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia for the first time has canceled a tourist's visa over undeclared food as the country tries to keep itself free of African swine fever. The 45-year-old woman who arrived at Sydney International Airport on Saturday had undeclared food in her luggage including 4.5 kilograms (10 pounds) of pork, Agriculture Minister Bridget McKenzie said on Tuesday. She was sent home to Vietnam and banned from returning to Australia for three years, McKenzie said. Australia is free of the disease that has wiped out pig populations across Asia and Europe. But the disease was recently detected in East Timor, a near neighbor where Australian veterinarians are working with local authorities on an eradication plan. Sniffer dogs now examine luggage on direct flights from the East Timorese capital Dili to the northern Australian city of Darwin to prevent contamination.

India restores postpaid cellphone services in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Postpaid cellphone services were restored in India-administered Kashmir on Monday, more than two months after India's government downgraded the region's semi-autonomy and imposed a security and communications lockdown. Landline phones were restored in the region last month, but the ban on more than 2 million prepaid mobile connections and internet services will continue. Authorities fear that insurgents and separatists demanding independence from Indian rule will use the internet to provoke protests in the region that could morph into large-scale street demonstrations. Tensions in Kashmir, which is divided between Pakistan and India but claimed by both in its entirety, have escalated since New Delhi's surprise decision in early August to downgrade the region's semi-autonomy. India followed the move by sending in tens of thousands of extra troops, detaining thousands of people and blocking cellphone and internet services. Residents appeared relieved Monday after facing difficulties during the long communications embargo. But the region continues to simmer with anger.

UK's Prince William, Kate arrive in Pakistan for 5-day visit

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Britain's Prince William and his wife Kate arrived in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad on Monday on a five-day visit, which authorities say will help further improve relations between the two countries. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were accorded a red-carpet reception on their arrival at the airport, then were escorted to a hotel amid tight security. The British royal family said the visit encompasses "the modern leafy capital Islamabad, the vibrant city of Lahore, the mountainous countryside in the North, and the rugged border regions to the West." It's "the most complex tour undertaken by The Duke and Duchess to date, given the logistical and security considerations," according to a statement released ahead of the visit. It said while the Duke and Duchess's program will pay respect to the historical relationship between Britain and Pakistan, "it will largely focus on showcasing Pakistan as it is today—a dynamic, aspirational and forward-looking nation."

Hong Kong police say homemade bomb targeted officers

HONG KONG (AP)—A homemade, remote-controlled bomb intended to "kill or to harm" riot control officers was detonated as they deployed against renewed violence in Hong Kong over the weekend, police said Monday, in a further escalation of destructive street battles gripping the business hub.

Full Coverage: Hong Kong

The "loud thud" Sunday night close to riot officers who had been clearing away a protester-built road block marked the first known use of an explosive device during protests that started in June over a contested extradition bill and have snowballed into an anti-government, anti-police and anti-China movement.

"It exploded less than 2 meters (yards) away from a police vehicle. We have reason to believe that the bomb was meant to target police officers," Deputy Commissioner Tang Ping-keung said at a news conference, speaking through a translator.

But despite spiraling violence, widespread vandalism and gasoline-bomb attacks by black-clad hardcore protesters, and repeated government appeals for people not to take their side, the protest movement is still rousing determined support from more moderate demonstrators, broadly worried about the future of the semi-autonomous Chinese territory and its freedoms, unique in China.

A peaceful rally in central Hong Kong's swanky business district on Monday night drew a giant crowd tens of thousands strong, a chanting, singing throng so massive that demonstrators filled side streets and broad boulevards. Holding aloft lit cellphones, the crowd looked like a galaxy of stars. Organizers said they drew 130,000 participants.

Many waved U.S. flags. The rally appealed for the U.S. Congress to press on with legislation that would require the secretary of state to annually review Hong Kong's special economic and trade status, providing a check on Beijing's influence over the territory.

A banner where speakers whipped up the crowd appealed for President Donald Trump to "liberate Hong Kong." Another read, "Make Hong Kong great again."

The majority of demonstrators wore face masks, a practice first adopted by many to protect their identities amid profound distrust of the police and government but now also a symbol of dissent since Hong Kong's leader, Carrie Lam, made the wearing of masks at rallies punishable by a year in jail.

Widespread defiance of the mask ban and the solid turnout for Monday's rally suggested that Lam's government is barely making headway with its efforts to get demonstrators to turn their back on the movement's more radical and destructive hardcore. Tang, the deputy commissioner, sought again to swing opinion at his news conference, saying violence against police has reached "a life-threatening level."

"If members of the public continue to remain silent and condone and tolerate such behavior they will go from bad to worse," he said. "Please cut ties with these criminals and rioters."

World

Turkey widens invasion as Syrian army returns to northeast



AP
Turkish army personnel carriers are parked on a road towards the border of Syria in Sanliurfa province, Turkey, Monday, Oct. 14, 2019.

AKCAKALE, Turkey (AP)—Syrian government troops moved into towns and villages in northeastern Syria on Monday, including the flashpoint region of Manbij, setting up a potential clash with Turkish-led forces advancing in the area as long-standing alliances in the region began to shift or crumble following the pullback of U.S. forces.

The Syrian military's deployment near the Turkish border came after Syrian Kurdish forces previously allied with the U.S. said they had reached a deal with President Bashar Assad's government to help them fend off Turkey's invasion, now in its sixth day.

Assad's return to the region his troops abandoned in 2012 at the height of the Syrian civil war is a turning point in Syria's eight-year civil war, giving yet another major boost to his government and its Russian backers and is like to endanger, if not altogether crush, the brief experiment in self-rule set up by Syria's Kurds since the conflict began.

The rapidly changing situation was set in motion last week, when U.S. President Donald Trump ordered American troops in northern Syria to step aside, clearing the way for an attack by Turkey, which regards the Kurdish fighters as terrorists. Since 2014, the Kurds have fought alongside the U.S. in defeating the Islamic State in Syria, and Trump's move was decried at home and abroad as a betrayal of an ally.

Faced with unrelenting criticism, Trump said Monday he was putting new sanctions on Turkey, halting trade negotiations and raising steel tariffs in an effort to pressure Ankara to stop its offensive. Vice President Mike Pence also said Trump was sending him to the Middle East because the president was concerned about instability in the region.

Pence said Trump spoke with Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan earlier Monday and called for an immediate end to Turkey's military campaign. He added that the U.S. is "simply not going to tolerate Turkey's invasion of Syria any longer."

In the past five days, Turkish troops and their allies have pushed into northern towns and villages, clashing with the Kurdish fighters over a stretch of 200 kilometers (125 miles). The offensive has displaced at least 130,000 people.

"Where is the United Nations? Let them come see the blood of our children on the floor! Why don't they show up?" cried a medic at the Tal Tamr hospital, which received dozens of injured people from nearby Turkish shelling in recent days.

Abandoned in the middle of the battlefield, the Kurds turned to Assad and Russia for protection and announced Sunday night that Syrian government troops would be deployed in Kurdish-controlled towns and villages along the border to help repel the Turkish advance.

Kurdish official Aldar Khalil said in a statement that the aim of the agreement is for Syrian troops to be deployed along the border, except for the area between the towns of Ras al-Ayn and Tal Abyad, where Turkish troops are advancing. He added that the autonomous authority will continue to run daily affairs in northeast Syria.

"There is an understanding between SDF and Damascus—a military agreement only," said Badran Ciya Kurd, a senior Kurdish official, referring to the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces. He has been in talks with Russians since the start, and he made his comments in an interview with The Associated Press.

Ecuador crisis weakens president, strengthens indigenous

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Thousands of indigenous demonstrators, student volunteers and local residents launched a mass cleanup Monday of a Quito park where anti-austerity protesters fought police for days, leaving piles of burning tires, trees and construction material.

President Lenín Moreno signed a new decree returning gas prices to traditionally low, subsidized levels a day after striking a deal to cancel a disputed austerity package and end nearly two weeks of protests that paralyzed the Ecuadorian economy and left seven dead.

While Ecuadorians welcomed the calm and praised both sides for striking a deal, analysts said Moreno appeared to have been significantly weakened halfway through his four-year term by days of protests that forced him to reverse a policy he called necessary for the country's future.

"I think the government has suffered a serious blow," said Santiago Basabe, an analyst at the Latin American Institute of Social Sciences in Quito. "Its only economic reform proposal in the last two years has been reversed, and that reduces the little credibility and room for maneuver that it had."

Moreno severely miscalculated by reducing fuel subsidies without plans in place to cushion the blow for poor Ecuadorians, Basabe said.

Ecuador's well-organized indigenous nationalities have regularly launched mass protests to win government concessions since 1990 but saw their rights sharply reduced under the decade-long rule of Moreno's predecessor, Rafael Correa. Correa prohibited protests, jailed indigenous leaders and launched swift crackdowns on any demonstration.

After swarming streets and public areas for nearly two weeks without a large-scale reaction by Moreno, who has promised to respect the right to protest, indigenous groups have emerged with new strength, Basabe said.

"I think they've taken back a political space that had practically disappeared under Correa," he said. "They've shown the country that they're here and they're a force to be reckoned with."

Leonidas Iza, one of the country's main indigenous leaders, told The Associated Press that he saw an indigenous president as a real possibility in the near future, even though indigenous people are less than a tenth of Ecuador's population.

"It's not a dream, it's a reality that we can take on," said Iza, a member of the Panzaleo Quichua group from the Andean sierra. "What we have proposed to the Ecuadorian people, even though we're not government officials, is that we need to construct a new economic model that's really decided on by the Ecuadorians."

As protesters left the epicenter of the protests, a park and cultural center in Quito where Iza and his followers had camped out for days, they carried out a "minga," an indigenous term for a communal labor project.

City workers shoveled burned debris into dump trucks and swept the streets clean. Young protesters took down improvised barricades of paving stones, which they piled back on the construction sites they had been taken from, or on city cargo trucks. Indigenous people who spent a week protesting in the park loaded bundles of clothes onto yellow buses to head back to their homes in the sierra. Crowds waved goodbye and chanted, "We did it!"

Four dead as Guineans protest president's bid to extend power

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP)—At least four people have been killed in Guinea's capital after police fired tear gas and bullets Monday to disperse thousands of opposition supporters, civil society groups and trade unionists gathering in Conakry and across the country to protest the president's bid to extend his time in office, Guinea's Red Cross said.

President Alpha Conde's mandate ends in December 2020, but he is seeking a referendum to allow a third term in the West African nation.

The four young men killed in Conakry Monday were all under the age of 24, Guinea's Red Cross said Monday, which also said 20 others were wounded by bullets.

Guinea's government said a gendarmerie was killed in Mamou, and only one person was killed in Conakry.

Residents in the Wanindara district of the capital, Conakry, told The Associated Press that two young men were wounded by bullets shot by men in National Gendarmerie uniforms.

"Young people and gendarmes were fighting. The gunshots that hit them were fired from the van of these gendarmes. Both young people fell," said resident Ousmane Sow. He said one was hit in the foot and the other in the back.

Sporadic shooting could be heard in other suburbs. Demonstrators burned tires and barricaded roads as police deployed around the capital. Most businesses were closed and residents stayed indoors.

Babanou Timbo Camara, a protester in the Matoto municipality, said police used tear gas and arrested a number of demonstrators.

Guinea's army chief of staff, Gen. Namory Toure, ordered soldiers to remain in their barracks.

The National Front for the Defense of the Constitution, the coalition group that called for the demonstration, said six of its leaders were detained over the weekend and it demanded their release.

The group, anticipating a crackdown by security forces, encouraged youth to protest in their districts instead of gathering all in one place. It also called on security forces, which have had a history of violence, to show restraint.

"We are appealing to all our brothers and sisters in uniform to stand on the side of the truth defended by the people of Guinea, whose exalted task they are to defend in all circumstances," it said in a statement that encouraged peaceful opposition to a constitutional amendment "for the sole purpose of maintaining a person in power for life."

Focus



AP

In this photo taken in the early morning hours of Oct. 24, 2018, wildlife technician Jordan Hazan records data in a lab in Corvallis, Ore., from a male barred owl he shot earlier in the night. The raptor was killed as part of a controversial experiment by the U.S. government to test whether the northern spotted owl's rapid decline in the Pacific Northwest can be stopped by killing its larger and more aggressive East Coast cousin, the barred owl, which now outnumber spotted owls in many areas of the native bird's historic range.

OWL KILLINGS spur moral questions about human intervention

By PHUONG LE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CORVALLIS, Ore. (AP)—As he stood amid the thick old-growth forests in the coastal range of Oregon, Dave Wiens was nervous. Before he trained to shoot his first barred owl, he had never fired a gun.

He eyed the big female owl, her feathers streaked brown and white, perched on a branch at just the right distance. Then he squeezed the trigger and the owl fell to the forest floor, adding to a running tally of more than 2,400 barred owls killed so far in a controversial experiment by the U.S. government to test whether the northern spotted owl's rapid decline in the Pacific Northwest can be stopped by killing its aggressive East Coast cousin.

Wiens grew up fascinated by birds, and his graduate research in owl interactions helped lay the groundwork for this tense moment.

"It's a little distasteful, I think, to go out killing owls to save another owl species," said Wiens, a biologist who still views each shooting as "gut-wrenching" as the first. "Nonetheless, I also feel like from a conservation standpoint, our back was up against the wall. We knew that barred owls were outcompeting spotted owls and their populations were going haywire."

The federal government has been trying for decades to save the northern spotted owl, a native bird that sparked an intense battle over logging across Washington, Oregon and California decades ago.

After the owl was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1990, earning it a cover on Time Magazine, federal officials halted logging on millions of acres of old-growth forests on federal lands to protect the bird's habitat. But the birds' population continued to decline.

Meanwhile, researchers, including Wiens, began documenting another threat — larger, more aggressive barred owls competing with spotted owls for food and space and displacing them in some areas.

In almost all ways, the barred owl is the spotted owl's worst enemy: They reproduce more often, have more babies per year and eat the same prey, like squirrels and wood rats. And they now outnumber spotted owls in many areas of the native bird's historic range.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's experiment, which began in 2015, has raised thorny questions: To what extent can we reverse declines that have unfolded over decades, often partially due to actions by humans? And as climate change continues to shake up the landscape, how should we intervene?

The experimental killing of barred owls raised such moral dilemmas when it first was proposed in 2012 that the Fish and Wildlife Service took the unusual step of hiring an ethicist to help work through whether it was acceptable and could be done humanely.

The owl experiment is unusual because it involves killing one species of owl to save another owl species. But federal and state officials already have intervened with other species. They have broken the necks of thousands of cowbirds to save the warbler, a songbird once on the brink of extinction. To preserve salmon runs in the Pacific Northwest and perch and other fish in the Midwest, agencies kill thousands of large seabirds called double-crested cormorants. And last year, Congress passed a law making it easier for Oregon, Washington, Idaho and American Indian tribes to kill sea lions that gobble imperiled salmon runs in the Columbia River.

In four small study areas in Washington, Oregon and northern California, Wiens and his trained team have been picking off invasive barred owls with 12-gauge shotguns to see whether the native birds return to their nesting habitat once their competitors are gone. Small efforts to remove barred owls in British Columbia and northern California already showed promising results.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has a permit to kill up to 3,600 owls and, if the $5 million program works, could decide to expand its efforts.



In this photo taken in the early morning hours of Oct. 24, 2018, wildlife technician Jordan Hazan records data in a lab in Corvallis, Ore., from a male barred owl he shot earlier in the night. "You're taught all of your life that owls and raptors are to be protected," Hazan says. "People ask me how it is killing the owls. As a hunter, it's fun going out and bagging your ducks and geese. With the owls, you don't get any kind of pleasure out of it. It's just something you have to do."

Wiens, who works for the U.S. Geological Survey, now views his gun as "a research tool" in humankind's attempts to maintain biodiversity and rebalance the forest ecosystem. Because the barred owl has few predators in Northwest forests, he sees his team's role as apex predator, acting as a cap on a population that doesn't have one.

"Humans, by stepping in and taking that role in nature, we may be able to achieve more biodiversity in the environment, rather than just having barred owls take over and wipe out all the prey species," he said.

Marc Bekoff, professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Colorado, Boulder, finds the practice abhorrent and said humans should find another way to help owl.

"There's no way to couch it as a good thing if you're killing one species to save another," Bekoff said.

And Michael Harris, who directs the wildlife law program for Friends of Animals, thinks the government should focus on what humans are doing to the environment and protect habitats rather than scapegoating barred owls.

"We really have to let these things work themselves out," Harris said. "It's going to be very common with climate change. What are we going to do — pick and choose the winners?"

Some see a responsibility to intervene, however, noting that humans are partly to blame for the underlying conditions with activities like logging, which helped lead to the spotted owl's decline. And others just see a no-win situation.

"A decision not to kill the barred owl is a decision to let the spotted owl go extinct," said Bob Sallinger, conservation director with the Audubon Society of Portland. "That's what we have to wrestle with."

If the experimental removal of barred owls improves the spotted owl populations, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife may consider killing more owls as part of a larger, long-term management strategy. Enough success has been noted that the experiment already has been extended to August 2021.

"I certainly don't see northern spotted owls going extinct completely," Wiens said, adding that "extinction in this case will be much longer process and from what we've seen from doing these removal experiments, we may be able to slow some of those declines."

Good Housekeeping

Houseplants that clean the air

By JESSICA DAMIANO
NEWSDAY

Like pets, indoor plants have long been known to reduce stress. The findings aren't anecdotal, either.

A 2016 study by Korean and Japanese researchers reported in the Journal of Physiological Anthropology set out to find whether interaction with indoor plants can alleviate the "great deal of stress to modern people" caused by "information technology." The male young adult subjects were divided into two groups, one tasked with repotting an indoor plant and the other with completing an assignment on a computer. When their tasks were completed, the groups switched roles, and the researchers found "significant" differences in blood pressure and heart rate variability that showed "interaction with indoor plants may reduce psychological and physiological stress by suppressing autonomic nervous system activity."

And the landmark 1989 NASA Clean Air Study revealed that plants are the most efficient (and cost-effective) method of reducing indoor air pollution, removing such toxins as benzene and formaldehyde from the air.

If you think those can't possibly be in your home, think again. If you've got carpeting, vinyl flooring, upholstered furniture, plastic grocery bags, cigarette smoke or even a roll of paper towels, you might be inhaling toxins on a regular basis. Ironically, scented air fresheners can exude harmful chemicals into our breathing space.

Opening a window and running a fan is the most effective way of replacing contaminated air with fresh air, but because airborne chemicals are mostly colorless, odorless gasses, we can't rely on our senses to alert us to take action. In addition, our climate isn't conducive to keeping the windows open 24/7 year-round.

The good news is that for low levels of toxins, such as those likely to be found in the average home, ordinary houseplants can help.

We already know the symbiotic relationship we humans have with plants: They provide us with the oxygen we need, and we exhale the carbon dioxide they require. Their absorption of our discarded carbon-dioxide filters — or cleans — the air for us. But plants can absorb many other gasses, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other indoor air pollutants.

In 2016, Vadoud Niri, a chemist at SUNY Oswego, released findings from his research that proved common houseplants are effective in removing harmful compounds from the air. After a visit to a nail salon with his wife during which he became alarmed at the ambient odor from VOCs from nail polish remover, Niri set out to build upon the landmark NASA study. He found that in just 12 hours, a single bromeliad removed 80% of six different compounds from the air; dracaena was extremely efficient at removing acetone, an ingredient in nail polish remover; and spider plants drastically reduced the amount of VOCs in the air immediately upon exposure.

Flowering plants, such as chrysanthemums and gerbera daisies, are most effective at removing benzene from the air. The chemical is found in many household detergents, inks, dyes, synthetic fibers, tobacco smoke, and plastic and rubber products. Long-term exposure to benzene can result in a decrease in red blood cells and can damage the immune system, plus the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has associated benzene exposure with an increased risk of cancer.

Conventional golden pothos has been shown to reduce the amount of environmental chloroform, a suspected carcinogen found in small amounts in chlorinated water and released into the air when we shower or boil that water.

Philodendrons, spider plants and golden pothos are most effective at removing formaldehyde from the air. The chemical has been found to exude from carpeting, cleaners, foam insulation, furniture, paper products, plywood and particle board. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has associated formaldehyde with sore throats, coughs, scratchy eyes, nosebleeds and breathing difficulty or asthma in those who are susceptible; and the Environmental Protection Agency considers it is "probably (a) human carcinogen."



TNS

Gerbera daisies cleanse the air of benzene, a study found.

And if you bring dry-cleaned clothing, adhesives, inks, dyes, lacquers, paints, varnishes and paper products into your home, chances are that trichloroethylene is hitching a ride in with them. The CDC has twice proposed bans on the chemical, which it has linked to cancer, skin, respiratory and central nervous system effects, and risks to a developing fetus after just a single exposure. Yet, trichloroethylene is still present in many of these products.

In response to these concerns, researchers at the University of Washington have genetically modified the common pothos plant to convert benzene and chloroform into harmless compounds the plants can use to support their own growth, essentially removing the chemicals from the environment. Their findings were reported in the Dec. 19, 2018, issue of Environmental Science & Technology.

The genetically modified pothos plant, which removed 90% of the compounds from the air in one week (versus 10% for conventional pothos) isn't yet available for purchase, but conventional pothos offers a measurable benefit.

GO CLEAN WITH THESE PLANTS

According to an Indoor Landscape Plants for Indoor Air Pollution Abatement report released by NASA and the Associated Landscape Contractors of America in 1989, these plants are among the most effective in removing toxins from the air. Keep in mind that the benefit is limited: One plant will not purify all the air in your home, so consider placing one (or more) in each room.

- Bamboo palm (Chamaedorea seifrizii)
- Chinese evergreen (Aglaonema modestum)
- English ivy (Hedera helix)
- Golden pothos (Epipremnum)
- Gerbera daisy (Gerbera jamesonii)
- Janet Craig (Dracaena fragrans "Janet Craig")
- Marginata (Dracaena marginata)
- Mass cane (Dracaena fragrans "Massangeana")
- Mother-in-law's tongue (Sansevieria trifasciata laurentii)
- Philodendron spp.
- Pot mum (Chrysanthemum morifolium)
- Peace lily (Spathiphyllum "Mauna Loa")
- Snake plant (Sansevieria)
- Spider plant (Chlorophytum)
- Weeping fig (Ficus)



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Life & Style

Farrow details lack of enthusiasm at NBC for Weinstein story

NEW YORK (AP)—In reporter Ronan Farrow's account of his contentious divorce from NBC News, the more evidence he gathered on Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein's alleged sexual misconduct, the less enthusiastic his bosses seemed to be.

NBC's decision to let Farrow take his work to the *New Yorker* magazine is widely regarded as one of the biggest mistakes in journalism in the past few years. The detailed stories on Weinstein published by *The New York Times* and *New Yorker* in 2017 shared a Pulitzer Prize and are credited with igniting the #MeToo movement.

"For six months, the only support I'd had was [NBC News president] Noah Oppenheim scrunching his nose and holding journalism at arm's length, afraid it might get on him," Farrow wrote.

His former employers call Farrow's book, *Catch and Kill*, a smear. It's being published Tuesday.

NBC remains adamant that its hand was forced by Farrow's enthusiasm for a story that—at the time he was working there—didn't meet its standards.

"Farrow's effort to defame NBC News is clearly motivated not by a pursuit of truth, but an axe to grind," Oppenheim wrote in a detailed memo to NBC News staff on Monday. "It is built on a series of distortions, confused timelines and outright inaccuracies."

Two years later, the reasons why NBC let Farrow and his explosive reporting leave are murky. Farrow suggests fear of Weinstein, fear of having Matt Lauer's secrets exposed, journalistic timidity or simple misjudgment all may play a role. Farrow's former producer, Rich McHugh, wrote in *Vanity Fair* that NBC abdicated its responsibility to relentlessly pursue and tell the truth.

One thing they do agree on: it was Oppenheim's idea in the first place, when he pointed out a tweet by actress Rose McGowan about being abused by an unnamed figure in the movie business.

Farrow, a former MSNBC host who segued into investigative journalism at NBC, scored an interview with McGowan, where she told her story but didn't name Weinstein on camera. Off-camera, she said it was him (Weinstein, who faces a sexual assault trial in New York in January regarding allegations not relating to McGowan, has denied any criminal wrongdoing). Farrow and McHugh pursued other sources and, they soon learned, so was the *Times*.

Yet he wrote about hurdles placed in his way that made him question NBC's desire to do the story.

Farrow wrote of doubts by Oppenheim that Weinstein was a figure many viewers knew or even cared about. When he told a supervisor that the *Times* was also onto a story, that person said that sometimes it was better to let someone else go first. He and McHugh were told lawyers were worried about whether NBC could get in trouble for talking to victims who had signed nondisclosure agreements, and of a concern that Farrow might be accused of a conflict of interest because his estranged father, Woody Allen, was once in business with Weinstein.

He and his producer were told at least a dozen times to pause or stop reporting, he wrote.

Eventually, the reporting team said they kept working on the story despite a lack of enthusiasm from above, with McHugh quickly switching a side screen on his computer to hide what he was doing when a supervisor was near.

NBC said Farrow mischaracterized conversations; that Oppenheim wondered not about the story's importance but about the news value of one element that had been reported on before—an audio tape from a woman fending off Weinstein. NBC wasn't satisfied coming in second but had noted if one victim came forward elsewhere it might open a floodgate of others who followed.

As the story moved along, NBC said it asked Farrow to prepare a script and assigned some of its top producers to vet the material.

The verdict was unanimous: Farrow needed more proof to sustain the claim that Weinstein was a sexual predator, Oppenheim said in an interview on Monday.

"He refused to accept that decision," Oppenheim said. "He was frustrated by the standards we were upholding."

The book details aggressive efforts by Weinstein to stop the story through the use of lawyers, public relations experts and a shadowy security firm, along with multiple calls to NBC executives.

After word got out that Farrow had left NBC, he reports that the mogul bragged to others that he got the network to "kill" the story. Weinstein even sent Oppenheim a bottle of expensive vodka (which NBC said he gave away because he doesn't drink).

Weinstein played no role in NBC's decision to hold off on what Farrow had reported, Oppenheim said.

A more sinister theory for NBC's inaction revolved around Matt Lauer, the "Today" show host who was fired in November 2017 for "inappropriate sexual contact" with a fellow employee. That colleague told Farrow that Lauer raped her in a Sochi hotel room in 2014; Lauer described the sex as consensual.

Farrow wrote that Weinstein "had made it known to the network that he was aware of Lauer's behavior and was capable of revealing it." At the time, Lauer was NBC News' highest-paid news employee, a fixture on the morning show.

But NBC denies Farrow's claim that its executives were aware, or should have been aware, that Lauer had a sexual misconduct problem.

Only one person from NBC's hierarchy approached him after the New Yorker piece ran to express regrets about what had happened, Farrow wrote. It was Brian Roberts, chairman of NBC's parent company Comcast.

The bad blood between Farrow and NBC News has led to a laundry list of he said-he said claims. They don't even agree on whose idea it was to take the reporting elsewhere.

That is, ultimately, the decision that most befuddled people who weren't directly involved. If the story wasn't ready, why didn't NBC just let Farrow and McHugh keep working on it?

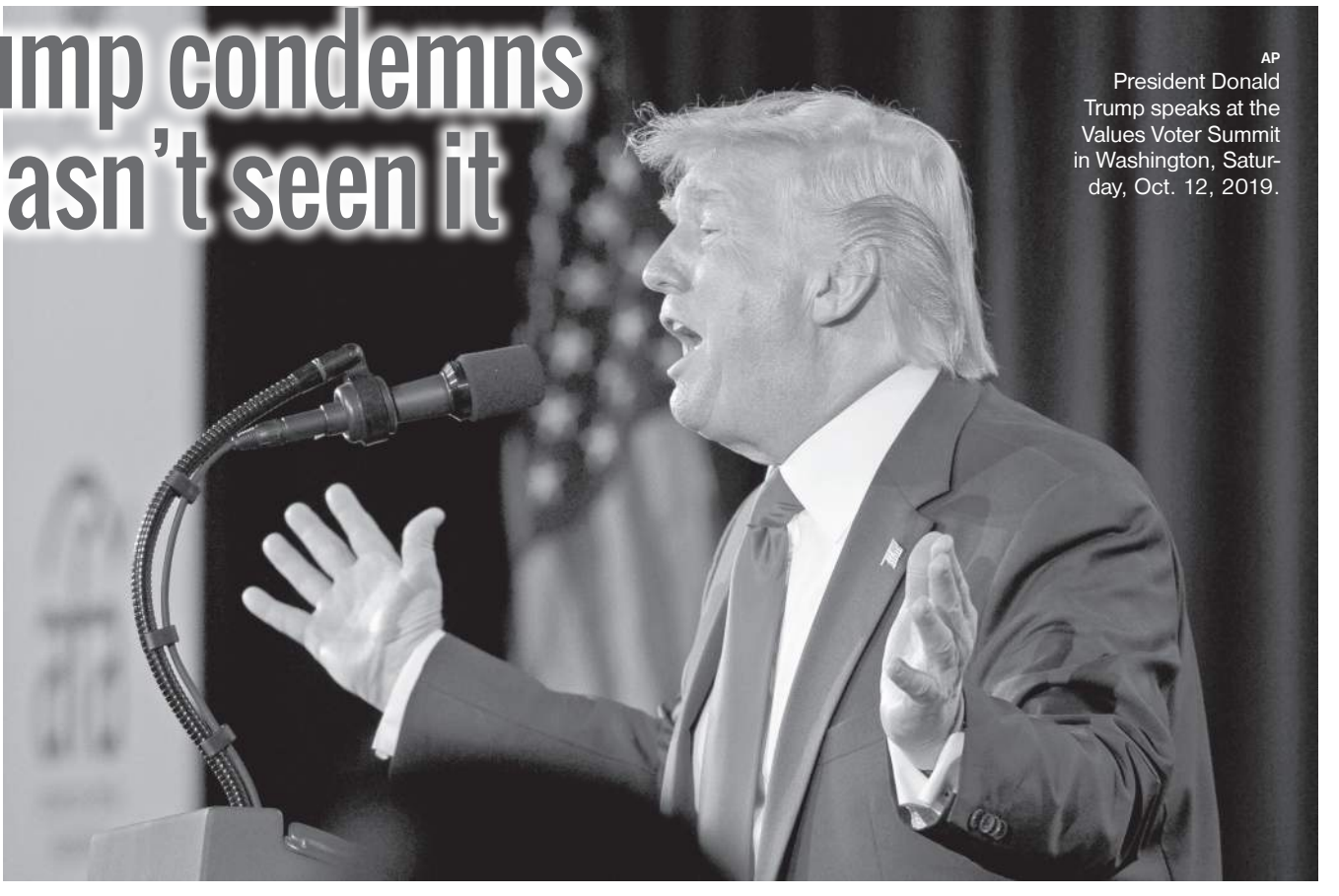
Oppenheim said NBC agreed to let him leave because their working relationship had irretrievably broken down.

Farrow "has refused to even consider the possibility that (NBC employees) were all acting with integrity and good faith and has instead chosen to pursue this conspiracy theory that is completely unfounded," he said.



File photo of Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Ronan Farrow at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Feb. 24, 2019. AP

White House: Trump condemns violent parody, hasn't seen it



AP
President Donald Trump speaks at the Values Voter Summit in Washington, Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019.

By JILL COLVIN and AMANDA SEITZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Donald Trump "strongly condemns" a graphic and violent parody video that depicts a likeness of him shooting and stabbing opponents and members of the news media, the White House said Monday. But his press secretary said he hadn't yet watched the two-minute clip.

The video, which drew widespread condemnation, was played during a conference held by conservative supporters of the president at his Miami golf resort last week.

It depicts a gruesome scene inside a "Church of Fake News" in which a figure whose face has been replaced with an image of Trump goes on a shooting rampage, targeting a long list of political rivals, including Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, former President Barack Obama and numerous news organizations.

The video, the existence of which The New York Times was first to report, was notable for its level of violence. It is part of a growing genre of pro-Trump memes that routinely earn thousands of views on sites like YouTube and Twitter. Many use superimposed faces and feature the president and his chief supporters valiantly conquering challengers or members of the media.

The one featured at the Florida conference appears to have been first posted in July 2018 on the YouTube channel "TheGeekzTeam," where it has been viewed more than 250,000 times. It uses a violent clip from the 2015 spy thriller "Kingsman: The Secret Service." In the original scene, actor Colin Firth is depicted shooting a crowd of possessed churchgoers.

TheGeekzTeam's parody of Trump in "Kingsman" was taken down for a copyright claim late Monday. An email listed for TheGeekzTeam did not respond to a request for comment.

The channel frequently posts violent parody videos of Trump playing popular movie superheroes or assassins. One depicts Trump as a comic book vigilante from the Netflix show "Daredevil" who stabs, punches and kills the superimposed faces of Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren, as well as CNN reporter Jim Acosta, among others.

Memes, which often feature photographs of politicians with snappy text or edited video clips, have become a highly shareable form of political communication on social media sites. While many are innocent, highlighting facts or opinion, both liberal and conservative sites have used such images to push false claims and outlandish suggestions for years.

And Trump has regularly elevated that content, sharing memes that support him or attack his opponents. The president used his Twitter pulpit in July 2017 to promote a doctored clip of a World Wrestling Entertainment bit to portray Trump tackling and repeatedly pummeling a man whose face had been obscured by the CNN logo.

Trump had yet to weigh in on the video personally by early evening, despite firing off more than a dozen tweets Monday, including one that called on his millions of supporters to vote for former White House press secretary Sean Spicer, who is a contestant on the show "Dancing with the Stars."

For Huda Kattan, beauty has become a billion-dollar business



AP
Huda Kattan arrives at the Huda Boss Facebook Watch screening celebration in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2019.

By MALAK HARB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—From a humble start of leaving the world of finance to write a beauty blog, Huda Kattan now has become one of the most recognizable names in makeup around the world.

The 36-year-old Iraqi-American now runs her eponymous empire Huda Beauty, a makeup line valued at $1.2 billion that has fast become a favorite among A-list celebrities and artists around the world.

Her personality has been key in connecting to the public via social media, a major driver for her makeup known for its vibrant color and contouring popular among Arab women. She's part of a growing vanguard of lines built around personalities, an expanding business model as more-established brands face slower sales.

"I do think the idea of makeup as a form of self-expression will just grow even more," Kattan told The Associated Press in Dubai. "I don't think it's going to be about beautifying anymore."

Kattan reaches customers through a YouTube channel where she uploads all her makeup tutorials. Her brand's Instagram account boasts more than 39 million followers, along with her seven million followers on Facebook. Her beauty line has found success globally, and especially across the Mideast and Persian Gulf, where Huda's business model has been particularly successful.

So-called "beauty influencers" are seeing strong growth in the United Arab Emirates, a federation of seven sheikhdoms home to Dubai. They also play an important role in showcasing beauty and personal care products in Saudi Arabia, which has the highest number of active users in the region on social media platforms.

According to Euromonitor International, big brands in the UAE such as Mac, Bobbi Brown and Estee Lauder "saw slight declines in their value shares in 2018, due to the stronger competition from smaller brands" like Huda Beauty, singer Rihanna's brand Fenty Beauty and Charlotte Tilbury.

As makeup sales slow in Europe and the U.S., they continue to grow in the Mideast. From 2018 to 2023, Euromonitor predicts a 7.2% growth in the color cosmetics industry across the Mideast, with a 2.9% growth across the Gulf Cooperation Council, which includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. This year alone, the color cosmetics market is valued at $2.3 billion in the Mideast, growing to $3.1 billion by 2023, according to Euromonitor.

Kattan said her business remained strong because of her focus on the Mideast. Unlike in many Western countries where more natural makeup looks are in vogue, women across Arab Gulf countries often lean toward bright, eye-catching makeup trends and accessories that offset the utilitarianism of black veils and abayas. That complements the bold colors of Kattan's lines.

"I feel like it's very normal in a cosmetic business to go after the No. 1 beauty business or the industry, which is the U.S.," she said. "Of course, I do want to go for the U.S., but I still feel like there's so much to do in this part of the world."

That focus has served her well so far. With a net worth of more than $600 million, Kattan was named one of the "10 most powerful influencers in the world of beauty" in 2017 by Forbes magazine and was named by Time as one of the 25 most influential people on the internet.

Kattan's makeup line includes lipsticks, eyeshadow palettes, foundation and highlighters among other products. She now is expanding her empire with a newly launched perfume line headed by her business partner and sister, Mona. Huda Kattan has also started a reality web show on Facebook's Watch service.

South Korean pop star Sulli found dead at her home

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean pop star and actress Sulli was found dead at her home south of Seoul on Monday, police said.

The 25-year-old was found after her manager went to her home in Seongnam because she didn't answer phone calls for hours, said Kim Seong-tae, an official from the Seongnam Sujeong Police Department.

Kim said that there were no signs of foul play and that police did not find a suicide note.

"The investigation is ongoing and we won't make presumptions about the cause of death," said Kim, adding that security camera footage at Sulli's home showed no signs of an intrusion.

In a statement sent to reporters, SM Entertainment, Sulli's agency, said her death was "very hard to believe and sorrowful."

Sulli's legal name is Choi Jin-ri. She began her singing career in 2009 as a member of the girl band "f(x)" and also acted in numerous television dramas and movies.

She was known for her feminist voice and outspokenness that was rare among female entertainers in deeply conservative South Korea. She recently appeared in a TV show and spoke out against online backlash she received over her lifestyle.



AP

In this Sept. 30, 2015, photo, South Korean pop star and actress Sulli poses during the K-Beauty Close-Up event in Seoul, South Korea.

Trump calls for Spicer votes on 'Dancing with the Stars'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—President Donald Trump is trying to influence votes on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

Trump on Monday tweeted that viewers should vote for former White House press secretary Sean Spicer. The president called Spicer a "good guy" and wrote "he has always been there for us!"

Spicer tweeted his thanks with instructions on how viewers can cast votes.

Spicer has been paired with professional dancer Lindsay Arnold as they compete for the mirror ball trophy.

He says he's doing it "to have fun and make it a really good experience."

Trump supporters have embraced Spicer, but opponents have criticized the program for inviting him.

Spicer told USA Today there's no question a "huge" amount of his votes come from Trump supporters.

Dancing with the Stars airs Monday night.

It's a tie: Atwood and Evaristo share fiction's Booker Prize

LONDON (AP)—Canadian writer Margaret Atwood and British author Bernardine Evaristo split the Booker Prize on Monday, after the judging panel ripped up the rulebook and refused to name one winner for the prestigious fiction trophy.

Chairman Peter Florence said the five judges simply couldn't choose between Atwood's dystopian thriller "The Testaments" and Evaristo's kaleidoscope of black women's stories, "Girl, Woman, Other."

Partly inspired by the environmental protesters of Extinction Rebellion, who were demonstrating near the prize ceremony's venue in London's financial district, Florence said the judges refused to back down when told the rules prohibit more than one winner.

"Our consensus was that it was our decision to flout the rules," he said. "I think laws are inviolable and rules are adaptable to the circumstance."

Prize organizers didn't see it that way. Gaby Wood, literary director of the Booker Prize Foundation, said prize trustees repeatedly told the judges they couldn't have two winners, but they "essentially staged a sit-in in the judging room" as deliberations dragged on for five hours.

Wood insisted the decision "doesn't set a precedent." It means Atwood and Evaristo will split the 50,000 pound ($63,000) Booker Prize purse.

Florence said both of the winning books "address the world today and give us insights into it and create characters that resonate with us."

"They also happen to be wonderfully compelling page-turning thrillers," he added.

Both winners said they were happy to share the prize.

"It would have been quite embarrassing for a person of my age and stage to have won the whole thing and thereby have kept a younger one, at different stage of their career, from going through that door," said Atwood, who at 79 is the oldest-ever Booker winner.



Atwood

Evaristo said winning the Booker was something that "felt so unattainable for decades."

"So I'm just absolutely delighted to have the prize and to share the prize," she said.

Atwood, who won the Booker in 2000 for "The Blind Assassin," had been the bookmakers' favorite to win the coveted trophy for a second time with her follow-up to "The Handmaid's Tale." Like that book—now a hit TV series—"The Testaments" is set in Gilead, a theocratic republic taken root in the United States, where young women are forced to bear children for powerful men.

Florence, founder of the Hay literary festival, said Atwood's novel "does massively more" than just continue the story started in "The Handmaid's Tale."

"It's beautiful in its depth and exploration of the world of Gilead," he said. It might have looked like science fiction back in the day . Now it looks more politically urgent than ever before."

Evaristo, who is of Anglo-Nigerian heritage, is the first black woman to take the trophy.

"I hope that honor doesn't last too long," she said.

She has published seven previous books but is less known than her co-winner.

Florence said he wasn't worried Evaristo, 60, would be overlooked as people focused on Atwood. He said that "there is something utterly magical" about the 12 characters from many walks of life who narrate "Girl, Woman, Other."

"They give a wonderful spectrum of black British women today," he said. "In that sense this book is groundbreaking—and I hope encouraging and inspiring to the rest of the publishing industry."

Founded in 1969, the prize is open to English-language authors from around the world. It has been split between two winners twice before, most recently in 1992, when Michael Ondaatje's "The English Patient" and Barry Unsworth's "Sacred Hunger" shared the trophy. The rules were changed after that to stipulate there can only be one winner each year.

Judges chose the two winners from a six-book shortlist that included British-Turkish author Elif Shafak's Istanbul-set "10 Minutes 38 Seconds in This Strange World"; U.S.-British writer Lucy Ellmann's stream-of-consciousness novel "Ducks, Newburyport"; India-born British writer Salman Rushdie's modern-day Don Quixote story, "Quichotte"; and "An Orchestra of Minorities," a saga of love and exile by Nigeria's Chigozie Obioma.

The prize, which often delivers a big boost in sales and profile to the winner, was sponsored for 18 years by investment firm Man Group and was known as the Man Booker Prize. This year it reverted to its original name, the Booker Prize, under a new sponsor: the Crankstart Foundation, founded by Silicon Valley venture capitalist Michael Moritz and his wife, writer Harriet Heyman.

Cross-dressing best friend want to go out as a couple

DEAR ABBY: My best friend and I are both male and 25. We've been friends since third grade. We were apart for four years of college and two years after because we were employed in different states. He has now been transferred and lives and works a few miles from where I do. We see each other frequently and often double date.

He recently shared a secret after pledging me to secrecy. He's a cross-dresser. He says he's not gay, and I believe him. He has pictures he had taken professionally in which he is completely feminine and even beautiful. He says he has been dressing up since the age of 12.

Abby, he wants to go out in public with me as a couple. Even though he is small and would easily pass, I'm just not into it. And what explanation would I give to my girlfriend? He says if I won't, I'm not a true friend; I say HE isn't. Is there any way to resolve this?

TESTED IN TAMPA

DEAR TESTED: There is a way, provided your friend is open to it. How about you and he AND YOUR GIRLFRIEND going out together? Of course, your girlfriend would have to know the truth, and your friend would have to be OK with her knowing. This way if you were seen with "another woman," it wouldn't cause conflict with the woman you're dating. That said, you should not do anything you are uncomfortable with, so think carefully before deciding.

DEAR ABBY: I am in a relationship with a woman 25 years my junior. We talked at length about some of the issues we might encounter before we embarked on a relationship. We love each other completely. Her father, however, strongly disapproves based solely on our age difference. He has stated that he had no issues with me personally.

She recently told me that she isn't happy and she wants us to spend some time apart. Neither of her two marriages worked out. She says I'm not the issue.

She wants to be with me, but her father would shun her—and me—if we were ever to be in the same room. He has actually said he'd walk out if I were present. She told me he was this way with her first marriage, which he did not approve of.

What do I do? I love her, but I can't get her to see how much I love and care for her and her two boys. How much space should I give her to figure herself out?

TORN UP IN PENNSYLVANIA

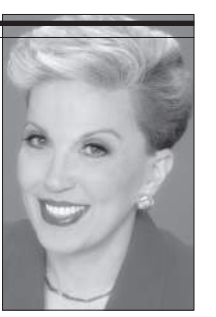
DEAR TORN UP: The woman you love may be twice divorced, but she isn't free. She is firmly under her father's thumb. The age difference is the least of your worries.

Regardless of your feelings for her, because she says she is no longer happy with you, it's time to make a U-turn. And when you do, suggest that if she wants to have a future with anyone, it will happen sooner if she starts talking with a licensed therapist about her relationship with dear old Dad. She will never have a life of her own while he's running it.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

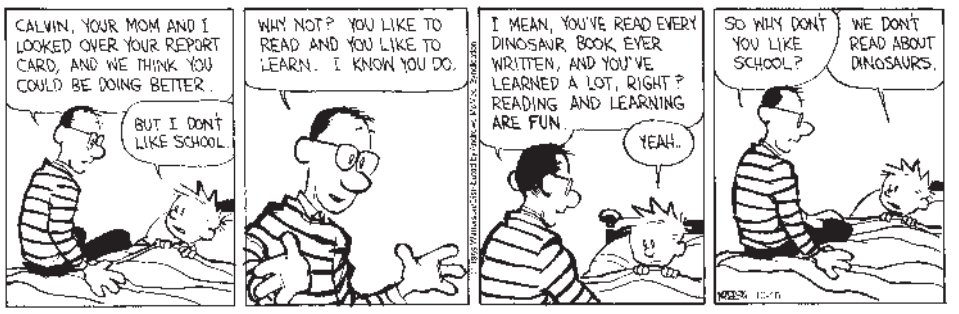


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



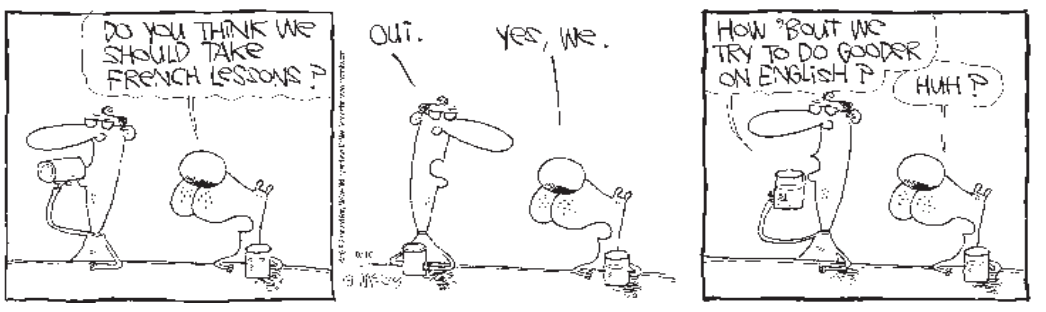
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

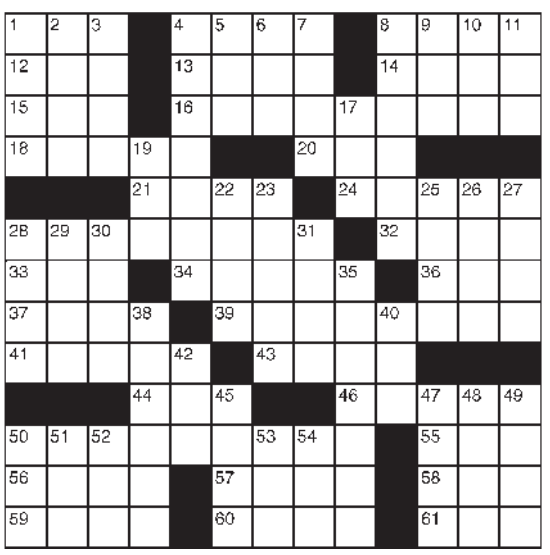
ACROSS
1 Nile biter
4 Infant
8 Teen hangout
12 Corp. boss
13 Bygone Peruvian
14 Bailiwick
15 Corn spike
16 One who can't be criticized
18 Nodded off
20 Elmer, to Bugs
21 Rainbow
24 Brazilian dance
28 "You Send Me" singer
32 Tropical tree
33 Cagers' gp.
34 Tizzies
36 Regret
37 "It's not — deal!"
39 Capri's Blue Grotto, and the like
41 Italian port
43 Dross
44 Ref
46 College study
50 Tangy baked potato topping
55 Poem of praise
56 Hardly hirsute
57 Leer at
58 Foundation
59 Weaponry
60 Fly high
61 — Paulo, Brazil

DOWN
1 High cards
2 Barking mammal
3 Skin opening
4 Casual eateries
5 "Suburgatory" actress Gasteyer
6 Abbr. in an email
7 Lawn party site
8 Wild and crazy
9 Lob's path
10 Author Tolstoy
11 Murphy's —
17 Dawn goddess
19 Photo, for short
22 Charged bits
23 Heavens above
25 Sportscaster Albert
26 Sad
27 Iowa city
28 Unforeseen problem
29 French cleric
30 Primary
31 Listending abbr.
35 Con artist
38 Pumpkin relatives
40 Khan title
42 "Better Call Saul" network
45 Experts
47 Apple mogul Steve
48 Classic theaters
49 Make over
50 Govt. lender
51 Rowing need
52 Einstein's birthplace
53 Swelled head
54 In the style of

Solution time: 23 mins.

B	O	I	L	■	N	A	S	A	■	H	U	B
T	O	¯	E	■	I	M	A	N	■	I	R	E
W	C	O	D	S	T	O	C	K	■	T	D	S
■	■	■	G	O	E	S	■	L	O	C	U	S
A	S	S	F	¯	■	■	M	F	S	I	■	■
R	A	I	I	S	■	K	F	N	T	U	C	K	Y
E	G	O	■	D	E	M	O	S	■	O	L	A
L	O	C	K	E	D	U	P	■	A	C	E	R
■	■	K	I	S	S	■	■	N	U	K	F	D
S	A	J	A	K	■	C	I	A	D	■	■	■
O	V	O	■	S	H	E	E	T	R	O	C	K
D	E	C	■	E	B	O	N	■	E	R	■	E
A	R	K	■	¯	O	S	S	■	Y	O	G	A

Yesterday's answer 10-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: John Mayer, 42; Kellie Martin, 44; Tim Robbins, 61; Angela Lansbury, 94.

Happy Birthday: Look for simple pleasures. How you spend your time and money will reflect how well you do this year. Make changes that will lower your overhead and put an end to joint money matters that are causing concern. Address issues that are inconsistent or making you angry, and you will gain the freedom to live your life your way. Change is overdue. Your numbers are 9, 16, 22, 31, 33, 39, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Learn all you can from those you encounter. Talk to experts, ask questions and look for new possibilities that will help you move in a more suitable direction. Educational pursuits will encourage new beginnings. Expansion and optimism will pay off. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Industrious ideas will play into your plans as well as your strengths and skills. Change is within reach, but it will take an effort on your part to initiate what you want. Love and romance will improve your relationship with someone special. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Evaluate your current lifestyle and connections. Not all contacts will be equal. Consider who is to your advantage and who isn't, and make adjustments to the time you spend with others. Liven things up by participating more. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Delve into something unique. A change will challenge you but also help you discover something that you enjoy and do well. Dealing with people from different backgrounds will be revealing. Invest time and energy in a promising partnership. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Change may be going on all around you, but that doesn't mean it's right for you. Only go along with what's good for you. Put your energy into expanding the interests and knowledge that allow you to grow. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Think big, but don't go overboard. Discussing your ideas with experts or people you deem as equals will help you sort out what's doable and what isn't. Recognize trouble if someone is aggressive or indulgent, and know enough to back away. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Share your thoughts and feelings; let others see the sort of change you want to happen. If you have a solid plan, you will persuade others to see things your way. Simplicity and moderation will be the keys to positive progress. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Words are powerful; use them wisely. Expressing what you want will make a difference to the way someone feels about you. Don't back down or give in to demands that bother you. Make suggestions that are fair and promises that are doable. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Listen carefully, and abide by the rules. Given the chance, someone will mislead you. Keep your head down and your mind on what you need to accomplish. Refuse to let anyone stand in your way or push you out of the way. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Lighten up and enjoy life. If you take on too much, you will end up missing out on something you want to do. Socialize with peers, make a positive change at home or spend time with youngsters or your lover. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Channel your energy where it will bring the highest returns. Whether you are looking for physical or financial gains, the right attitude and input will help you get what you want. Don't labor over what others are doing. Avoid drama. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Draw up agreements, discuss plans and share your ideas. A joint venture looks promising and can lead to an exceptional partnership. Physical changes you make will boost your confidence and improve your health. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, intuitive and thoughtful. You are intelligent and ambitious.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1	6	2				
8				5			
3	9				7		
4	6				1		
5		1			2		
	7			4	9		
	7	4	6	3	5	9	
					3	4	2
						7	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	1	8	4	5	6	3	2	9
2	9	4	8	3	7	6	1	5
3	5	6	1	9	2	7	8	4
8	2	3	9	1	4	5	6	7
9	6	5	7	2	3	8	4	1
4	7	1	5	6	8	9	3	2
6	8	7	2	4	9	1	5	3
5	3	2	6	7	1	4	9	8
1	4	9	3	8	5	2	7	6

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TIE-DYE IS BACK — Solution: 7 letters

H	S	L	R	I	W	S	J	H	S	E	R	F	E
E	A	N	I	T	A	S	E	O	U	T	F	I	T
X	P	N	R	L	P	M	A	C	E	S	R	U	P
P	H	S	D	E	T	O	N	E	O	E	M	O	I
R	C	O	Y	M	T	P	S	H	C	T	A	M	K
E	A	V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	T	T	W	S
S	E	E	S	S	H	D	A	B	R	E	S	O	T
S	B	S	T	Y	L	E	E	P	L	U	R	C	N
I	U	E	H	I	A	B	D	B	M	O	T	I	F
O	L	M	A	T	O	W	I	E	L	H	U	T	S
N	S	T	M	R	U	K	N	I	L	L	P	S	S
Y	E	H	D	E	I	O	A	U	N	I	Q	U	E
R	G	R	A	N	R	T	Y	R	R	S	C	R	O
S	A	D	I	D	O	O	H	D	L	I	H	C	D
W	K	C	E	N	E	L	T	R	U	T	W	I	S

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Beach, Bikini, Blouse, Camp, Childhood, Cotton, Dress, Drip, Edgy, Expression, Fresh, Handmade, Jeans, Match, Motif, Mute, Outfit, Pastel, Patterns, Psychedelic, Purse, Resort, Retail, Runways, Rustic, Satin, Shade, Shop, Shorts, Silhouette, Skirt, Style, Summer, Swirl, Tailor, Tone, Trousers, Turtleneck, Twist, Unique, Vacation, Wardrobe, Youth

Yesterday's Answer: Service

Treasuries 13 through 18 and 20 through 34 can be purchased on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Solicitation for Bids for Repair Work on Mañagaha Island

Tasi Tours and Transportation, Inc. ("Tasi") operates a tourism concession on Mañagaha Island under a contract with the CNMI Department of Public Lands. Under this contract, Tasi maintains the pavilions and other improvements on Mañagaha. Super-typhoons Soudelor and Yutu damaged the roofs of six of the pavilions, a BBQ area, and the generator house. Tasi is soliciting formal bids for the repair of these roofs. The award is contingent upon approval by the Department of Public Lands.

Bid packages are available now at Tasi's office, Beach Road, Saipan. Boat transportation to Mañagaha to view the pavilions, BBQ area, and generator house may be arranged by calling David L. Igitol at Tasi at (670) 235-9373. Such arrangements must be made by no later than October 21, 2019.

Bids will be due in writing no later than October 25, 2019 at 4:00 PM addressed to Masato Tezuka via email at m_tezuka@tasi-saipan.com or via hand delivery in a sealed envelope at Tasi's office on Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This is to inform the general public that Vision Developes Corp. will be dissolved effective October 18, 2019. All claims against the company must be filed on or before October 18th after which, all remaining equity will be distributed to the stockholders.

Vision Developes Corporation
P.O. Box 7820 SVRB,
Saipan, MP 96950

/s/ The Management

Julie Suda
P.O. Box 506262
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 288-6334

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the matter of the Petition For Appointment of General Guardianship for: K.L [02/12/2003] Minor Child By: Julie Suda Petitioners	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0273 NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 11/18, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom MBP, before honorable Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 1st day of October, 2019

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL N. EVANGELISTA, ESQ.
(CNMI Bar No. F0364)
LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA EVANGELISTA, LLC
D'Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 235-8060; Fax: (670) 235-8070
Email: mnevangelista8@gmail.com
Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

VICTOR BABAUTA CASTRO, Petitioner, vs. LORALIE JENNETH TOMINES SANCHEZ, Respondent.	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0430 SUMMONS

TO: LORALIE JENNETH TOMINES SANCHEZ

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce, which is served herewith, **within twenty-one (21) days** after the fourth publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Michael Norita Evangelista, LLC., Petitioner's attorney, whose address is 2nd Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it the Clerk of the above-named Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of this Court, dated 24th day of September, 2019.

/s/ Clerk of Court
PATRICK V. DIAZ

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 06-2019

Opening date: September 30, 2019 **Closing date: October 18, 2019**

Positions: (1) Electrician (Saipan)
(1) ARFF General Maintenance-I (Saipan)
(1) Vessel Traffic Controller-I (Port of Saipan)
(1) Secretary/Tariff Technician-I (Rota)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport***. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, October 18, 2019.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or hrspecialist@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670)237-6500.

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Nationals one win away from World Series

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 100 pitches in, Stephen Strasburg was adamant he wasn't quite ready to leave the latest superb start by a Nationals pitcher against the St. Louis Cardinals in the NL Championship Series —a win that put Washington on the verge of the city's first World Series in 86 years.

It was the seventh inning, and manager Dave Martinez noticed Strasburg had flexed his right leg and reached for that hamstring. So the skipper and a trainer went to the mound to check on their guy.

"I was trying to explain to him, 'Hey, you just grabbed your hamstring, so there's a little concern,'" Martinez recalled. "He said, 'No, I cramped up. It's fine. I always cramp up.' He said, 'I'm staying in the game. I want to finish this inning.' I said, 'You sure you're all right?' He said, 'I'm in the game!'"

The right-hander did, indeed, stay in. Even struck out the next two batters to raise his total to 12 Ks, each finished with an off-speed pitch. Strasburg took his turn silencing the Cardinals' struggling bats, Nationals postseason star Howie Kendrick doubled three times and drove in three more runs, and Washington took a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven NLCS by beating St. Louis 8-1 Monday night.

"It's a little surreal," reliever Sean Doolittle said about being one win from the World Series, "and I think that's why it's important that we don't look too far ahead."



AP
Washington Nationals' Brian Dozier is out at first as St. Louis Cardinals' Paul Goldschmidt takes the throw during the eighth inning of Game 3 of the National League Championship Series Monday, Oct. 14, 2019, in Washington.

After Nationals starters Aníbal Sánchez and Max Scherzer flirted with no-hitters in the first two games against the Cardinals, Strasburg wasn't quite that untouchable: He allowed a double in the second inning, six later singles and one unearned run.

Still, the Cardinals, quite simply, can't score in this NLCS: They have a grand total of two runs and 11 hits through three games. Washington's three starters have a combined ERA—no calculator necessary for this one—of 0.00.

Yes, that's zero-point-zero-zero.

"We expected better," said Kolten Wong, who went 0 for 4 on Monday and is 0 for 10 in the series for St. Louis.

Now it's Patrick Corbin's chance to see if he can match his rotation-mates. The $140 million lefty will start for the Nationals in Game 4 on Tuesday night, when they can close out a sweep at home. Rookie right-hander Dakota Hudson will be on the mound for the Cardinals.

"We've got to get a lead at some point in this series. Hard to win a game if you can't get a lead," St. Louis manager Mike Shildt said. "We've got to figure out a way to create some offense early in the game and be able to hold it there."

Washington hasn't put a baseball team in the World Series since 1933, when the Senators lost to the New York Giants in five games. The nation's capital owns only one MLB championship; the Senators won all the way back in 1924. There wasn't even a baseball team at all in Washington for more than three decades until the Montreal Expos franchise moved to town before the 2005 season and was renamed the Nationals.

Until this season, the Nationals hadn't won a playoff series, going 0-4 since 2012, but they sure look as if they're making up for lost time.

"Shoot, maybe we're finally coming around," third baseman Anthony Rendon said.

How about this current run? The Nationals, who found themselves at 19-31 in late May, have won 15 of their past 17 games, stretching back to the last week of the regular season.

It all starts with the pitching.

"That's what our team is built around. You have those guys, those horses, that take the ball every fifth day," said Ryan Zimmerman, who drove in two runs. "They haven't disappointed, obviously, in the postseason, but they've kind of been the backbone of this team all year."

Against Sánchez in Game 1, the first hit for the Cardinals arrived with their 27th batter. Against Scherzer in Game 2, it was their 21st batter. But even when the Cardinals did something right against Strasburg, they erased it by doing something wrong.

Their fourth batter, Marcell Ozuna, doubled to the left field corner in the second, then quickly erased himself with some poor baserunning, going too far toward third on a comebacker and getting tagged out by Strasburg, who is enjoying a postseason to remember.

He was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2009 amateur draft, then was infamously shut down before the playoffs three years later to protect his surgically repaired right elbow. Strasburg is now hale and hearty, throwing 117 pitches Monday, his most since totaling 118 in a May 2017 game.

And this sort of October excellence is what the Nationals were hoping for: Strasburg has a 3-0 record and 1.64 ERA, with 33 strikeouts and one walk—he didn't issue a free pass Monday—in 22 innings this postseason.

Much to the delight of a red towel-twirling crowd of 43,675, Washington's batters kept delivering, led by Kendrick, who has eight RBIs in the past four games.

The Nationals roughed up Jack Flaherty for four runs, all in the third inning; he hadn't allowed that many in a game since July 2, a span of 18 appearances.

Seven of Washington's eight runs came with two outs, and there were contributions from up and down the lineup: Victor Robles homered in his return from a hamstring injury, and Rendon heard "MVP!" chants after a slick defensive play and an RBI double.

"We haven't been able to play our brand of baseball in full," Shildt said. "We haven't been able to get in rhythm or sync, but we still have more baseball to play."

Yankees, Astros plan all relievers in Game 4

NEW YORK (AP)—The Yankees and Astros plan all-bullpen games from the start in Game 4 of the AL Championship Series in a sign of the times.

With the best-of-seven series tied 1-1, New York's Luis Severino starts Game 3 on Tuesday against Gerrit Cole. Masahiro Tanaka began the opener for the Yankees and James Paxton was on the mound for Game 2.

Neither team had a starting pitcher it wanted to use for Game 4 on Wednesday.

"J.A. Happ could very much be in the mix, as well as I picture our bullpen being unleashed on that day," New York manager Aaron Boone said Monday as the series shifted to Yankee Stadium.

A starter during the regular season, Happ has relieved during the playoffs. The 36-year-old left-hander entered in the 10th inning of Game 2, escaped a two-out jam, then allowed Carlos Correa's home run leading off the 11th that gave the Astros a 3-2 win.

Houston manager A.J. Hinch started Zack Greinke in the opener followed by Justin Verlander in Game 2. Hinch anticipates rookie right-hander José Urquidy will pitch at some point in Game 4 but preferred to call it "a bullpen day."

"That's the cool thing to say nowadays," Hinch said. "Maybe Urquidy starts, maybe he comes in the middle of the game. And we go with somebody with a little bit more experience. But we haven't made that decision. We don't even know if we're going to play that day. There's been a lot of talk about the weather."

Heavy rain is forecast for Wednesday, and if Game 4 is postponed, Tanaka and Grienke would start Thursday on normal rest.

Boone removed Paxton after 2 1/3 innings and 51 pitches, and the bullpen allowed two runs and three hits in 7 2/3 innings. George Springer hit a tying home run in the fifth on Adam Ottavino's first pitch.

"I don't think he's as far off maybe as is being talked, but he's certainly not as sharp as he's been most of the year," Boone said of Ottavino. "I feel like he's close to being that, and I think some small successes hopefully will spur him on because he needs to play a big role for us."

Boone said a decision won't be made until Tuesday on outfielder Giancarlo Stanton, who strained his right quadriceps in the opener and missed Game 2.

Limited by injuries to 18 games during the regular season, Stanton homered in the opener. If he were dropped from the roster against the Astros, he would be ineligible to return this year.

"It is a sensitive decision, a tough decision," Boone said. "We'll just try and evaluate and try and get as honest as feedback as we can from Giancarlo."

Aaron Hicks could get his first start since Aug. 3, taking over in center field from Brett Gardner, who would replace Stanton in left. Sidelined by an injured flexor near his right elbow, Hicks pinch-hit for starting left fielder Cameron Maybin and grounded out leading off the 10th inning in Game 2, then moved to center.

"Aaron is very much in play," Boone said, "Thought he had a good at-bat, looked like Aaron Hicks. So he'll very much be part of the conversation moving forward."

After missing most of the season with a lat injury sustained while warming up for his first spring training start, Severino returned for three outings in late September, then wiggled out of trouble to pitch four scoreless innings in Game 3 against Minnesota.

"I don't need to go out there and strike out 15 people. I just need to go out there and throw a good game," Severino said,

While Tuesday's game is scheduled to start shortly after 4 p.m., it is late enough in the year that the mound should be covered in shadows in addition to home plate.

LeBron: Morey 'wasn't educated' on China tweet

LOS ANGELES (AP)—LeBron James believes Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey "was either misinformed or not really educated on the situation" regarding the potential consequences of his actions when he tweeted in support of Hong Kong's pro-democracy protests.

In his first public comments since the Los Angeles Lakers returned home from a strange weeklong tour of China immediately after Morey's incendiary tweet , James' lengthy answer to a question about whether Morey should be punished for his tweet didn't appear to specifically address the merits of Morey's support of Hong Kong sovereignty.

The Lakers superstar instead characterized the international incident caused by Morey's tweet as a cautionary tale about the power of social media.

"Yes, we do have freedom of speech," James said. "But at times, there are ramifications for the negative that can happen when you're not thinking about others, when you only think about yourself. I don't want to get into a word or sentence feud with Daryl Morey, but I believe he wasn't educated on the situation at hand, and he spoke. So many people could have been harmed, not only financially but physically, emotionally, spiritually. So just be careful what we tweet and what we say and what we do. Even though yes, we do have freedom of speech, it can be a lot of negative that comes with it."

When asked to clarify his thoughts, James went further.

"I believe (Morey) was either misinformed or not really educated on the situation, and if he was, then so be it," James said. "But I have no idea. That's just my belief. When you say things or do things, you're doing it and you know the people that can be affected by it, and the families and the individuals and everyone that can be affected by it. Sometimes things can be challenging as well. Also sometimes, social media is not always the proper way to go about things as well. But that's just my belief."

A Rockets spokesperson didn't immediately respond to request for comment Monday night on James' remarks.

James' comments set off swift reaction on social media, with many listeners perceiving his comments as criticism of the democracy movement in Hong Kong. James addressed the issue again in two tweets before the Lakers' preseason game against Golden State at Staples Center.



AP
Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James in action during a match against Brooklyn Nets at the NBA China Games 2019 in Shenzhen in south China's Guangdong province on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019.

"Let me clear up the confusion," James tweeted. "I do not believe there was any consideration for the consequences and ramifications of the tweet. I'm not discussing the substance. Others can talk about that. ... My team and this league just went through a difficult week. I think people need to understand what a tweet or statement can do to others. And I believe nobody stopped and considered what would happen. Could have waited a week to send it."

James didn't play, but watched from the bench when the Lakers hosted the Warriors on Monday night, just two days after they returned home from their bizarre trip to China.

A typical NBA preseason promotional swing through Shanghai and Shenzhen became something else when Morey tweeted in support of the Hong Kong protesters while the Lakers were in the air on their 13-hour flight to China.

The Lakers landed amid outrage in China with Morey's since-deleted tweet and the NBA in general. The league and Chinese authorities decided to hold no media availability or community events with the Lakers or the Brooklyn Nets, their opponents.

The Lakers passed their week in China in public silence. Although the exhibition games weren't canceled, the league claimed it would be unfair to ask players and coaches to speak on the delicate geopolitical argument in which they found themselves involuntarily enmeshed.

So the players spent most of the week in hotels or on the court, with two NBA Cares events, a fan event and other public appearances all canceled by the league or the government. Several companies and state-run offices reportedly severed their ties with the NBA over Morey's tweet and the league's response to it.

The Lakers and Nets also met with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver. James said he was happy with Silver's handling of the controversy, which led to criticism of the commissioner from supporters on both sides of the Hong Kong movement.

"It was a tough situation for Adam as well, to put out a fire that he didn't start," James said.

When asked about his thoughts on the political side of the events in China, James echoed Warriors coach Steve Kerr's belief that he didn't know enough to comment on the situation.

"When I speak about something, I speak about something I am very knowledgeable about, something that hits home for me, something that I am very passionate about," James said. "I felt like with this particular situation, it was something that not only was I not informed enough about, I just felt like it was something that not only myself and my teammates or our organization had enough information to even talk about it at that point in time, and we still feel the same way."

Heat's Herro among rookies making preseason noise

MIAMI (AP)—Add Miami's Tyler Herro to the list of rookies who look ready for the regular season.

Herro scored Miami's first 14 points on Monday night, going 5 for 5 in that stretch, and finished with 23 points in a 120-87 Heat victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

Through three games in this preseason, Herro—the No. 13 pick in this year's draft —is shooting 18 for 33 from the field for 49 points.

"The kid can play," Heat assistant coach Malik Allen said in a televised halftime interview. "He has a confidence but he's a student of the game, he's smart, he's an extremely quick learner and you're seeing that."

Among those taken in June's draft, some have wasted no time in announcing their presence to the NBA world.

New Orleans' Zion Williamson, the No. 1 pick, is averaging 23.3 points and shooting 71% in the Pelicans' four preseason games—all wins. Ja Morant, the No. 2 pick for Memphis, is among the league's assist leaders in exhibition season with 23 in his first three games.

No. 3 pick RJ Barrett is averaging 16 points for New York, No. 7 pick Coby White 16.8 points for Chicago and No. 28 pick Jordan Poole had 36 points in his first two games with Golden State entering Monday night.

Herro is only adding to what has been an impressive class.

"He just loves to play," Allen said. "He loves to play, he loves to be out there, he loves the moment."

Next week, the moments start for real.

Herro's 23 points led the way for Miami, which used an 18-2 second-quarter run to take control.

Bam Adebayo scored 15 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for the Heat, who are 3-0 in the preseason. Meyers Leonard also scored 15 and Derrick Jones Jr. scored 14 before leaving in the fourth quarter after bumping knees with Atlanta's John Collins.

Kendrick Nunn had 14 points in 14 minutes for Miami. Jimmy Butler scored seven points on 3 for 7 shooting in 26 1/2 minutes for the Heat.

Trae Young scored 23 points for Atlanta, and had seven more assists—giving him 23 in Atlanta's three preseason games. The Hawks were again without Kevin Huerter, who is working his way through some knee pain.

Collins scored 14 for Atlanta, which got 10 from Vince Carter.

AD has sprained right thumb

The Los Angeles Lakers say Anthony Davis is day-to-day with a sprained right thumb.

An MRI exam on Davis' injury revealed only a sprain, increasing the chances of the Lakers' new star being ready for the regular season.

Davis was injured during a preseason game in China on Saturday. The Lakers were cautiously confident the injury wasn't serious, and the MRI confirmed it.

Davis didn't play in the Lakers' preseason game against Golden State at Staples Center on Monday night, but he took shots without protection on his thumb two hours before the game.

The Lakers acquired Davis from New Orleans in the offseason to team with LeBron James in their bid to end their six-year playoff drought.

Meanwhile, Deandre Ayton strolled around the practice court, talking and laughing with coaches and teammates following a two-hour workout with the Phoenix Suns.

It is clear he is comfortable operating in lofty surroundings, even on a morning in the mountains of Flagstaff, despite a sign on the wall that warned of the dangers of physical exertion at 7,000 feet of altitude.

"What's that, 7,000? Nah, I need more like 15. That was pretty light," Ayton quipped. "I don't have that little chest burn feeling when you're at such a high altitude. It was fun."

So is winning. And the expectations are high for the former No. 1 draft pick, who is part of a promising 2018 NBA draft class that teams are looking at becoming the faces of rebuilding franchises.

Dallas guard Luka Doncic was the rookie of the year after averaging 21.2 points, 7.8 rebounds and six assists per game. Atlanta's Trae Young finished second in the voting, averaging 19.1 points and 8.1 assists. Ayton was third.

"This summer, I've never worked so hard in a gym before in my life," said the 21-year-old Ayton, who averaged 16.3 points and 10.3 rebounds.

Crosby hits late FG to lift Packers past Lions



Green Bay Packers wide receiver Allen Lazard makes a catch for a first down while being defended by Detroit Lions cornerback Justin Coleman during the second half of an NFL game, Monday, Oct. 14, 2019, in Green Bay, Wis.

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—It took Mason Crosby 13 seasons to perform his first Lambeau Leap.

The 35-year-old kicker nailed a 23-yard field goal as time expired and jumped into the crowd with a boost from long snapper Hunter Bradley after he finished off a rally for the Green Bay Packers, who benefited from some questionable officiating to edge the Detroit Lions 23-22 on Monday night.

"That was fun, yeah," Crosby said of leaping into the crowd. "That feeling, once you get up in the stands, the energy in there and teammates and everyone's around, that's something I'll always remember. That was great."

Aaron Rodgers, in his second straight game without top target Davante Adams, completed 24 of 39 passes for 283 yards and two touchdowns, including a beautiful 35-yard throw to Allen Lazard for the second-year pro's first career score.

"I actually sit next to him in the team meetings," Rodgers said of Lazard, who was cut by the Packers in August and then signed to the practice squad to start the season. "We've struck up a pretty good friendship.

"The thing that got me was, which you love as a quarterback, and that's when your receiver's coming back and telling you he wants the ball and what route he wants to run. ... That was him coming back in the huddle, telling me what play he wanted, and for a young guy to do that, how can you not have confidence in that?"

Rodgers linked up with Jamaal Williams for the other TD. Williams finished with 104 yards on 14 carries and four catches for 32 yards for Green Bay (5-1), which captured its first win in five tries against its NFC North rival.

The Packers, who are off to their first 3-0 start in the NFC North since 2012, might not have pulled it off if not for two fourth-quarter penalties for illegal hands to the face against Detroit's Trey Flowers, both of them on third down. The first set up Lazard's touchdown, and the second allowed Green Bay to run the clock down to 2 seconds before Crosby's game-winner. In both cases, replays showed Flowers' hands on the neck or shoulder—not the face—of a Packers lineman.

"I actually changed the position of my hand, because it was to the chest initially," Flowers said. "I was doing it all game. I didn't know that was a flag to the chest, so I changed it. And he called it again.

"I didn't think hands to the chest was a penalty. I thought hands to the face, but I had him right here in the chest. The second time I changed it. ... That's part of a move that I do. So, nah, I don't think that was a penalty."

Referee Clete Blakeman said umpire Jeff Rice made the calls, and he discussed the last one with him.

"Basically, it's for illegal use of the hands, hands-to-the-face foul," Blakeman told a pool reporter. "To be a foul, we basically need some forceful contact that's prolonged to the head and neck area of the defender.

"So, in his mind he had pinned him back, it was prolonged, and that's what created the foul."

Matt Prater was good from 26, 22, 41, 51 and 54 yards for the Lions (2-2-1), who fell to 0-2 under Matt Patricia on Monday night. Detroit lost its last Monday night game to the Jets 48-17 last year.

"We got to find a way to finish," said Kenny Golladay, who had 121 yards on five catches for Detroit. "That's a big part of it right now. Find a way to finish. We left a lot of points out there. We were in the red zone quite a bit and just coming out with field goals. That's tough, especially when you've got a guy, a quarterback on the other side that you, you've got to finish."

Matthew Stafford finished 18 of 32 for 265 yards and was sacked three times.

Kerryon Johnson scored the lone touchdown for the Lions from 1 yard out in the first quarter.

Preston Smith and Za'Darius Smith each had a sack for Green Bay. Preston Smith and Kyler Fackrell combined for the other.

Rodgers was sacked once by Damon Harrison Sr. and threw an interception that bounced off the facemask of an open Derrius Shepherd near the goal line. James Coleman snagged the ball returned it 55 yards, setting up Prater's last field goal that made it 22-13.

Meanwhile, Monday Night Football analyst Booger McFarland complained about the first call on Flowers and was even more critical of the second one, saying, "you basically end the game on what I call a bogus hands-to-the-face."

Social media was abuzz over the frivolous flags.

"The referees are destroying the NFL game by game," tweeted ex-NFL star Matt Forte . "It's a shame because of how much work is put in and to have games literally won or loss by bad calls in crucial situations."

Barry Sanders chimed in , tweeting, "That is sickening... the @NFL needs to look at a way to prevent that from happening. Two phantom hands to the face calls really hurts us tonight. Yes, we could have scored TDs, but @Lions played too well to have the game end this way."

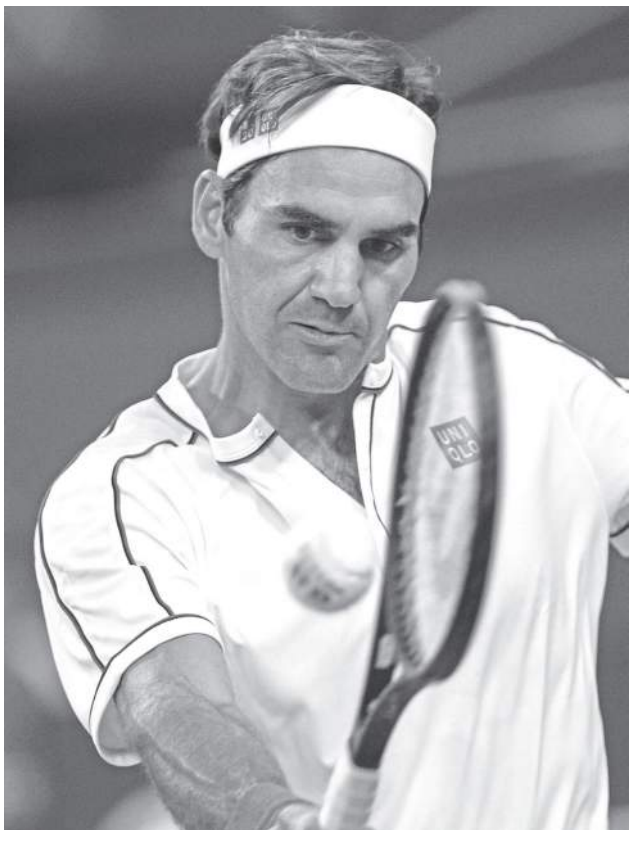
Federer will chase elusive Olympic gold

TOKYO (AP)—Roger Federer wants to become a five-time Olympian.

Already the most successful male tennis player in terms of Grand Slam singles titles, Federer wants to add another piece of hardware to his impressive collection. If he's healthy.

"My heart decided I would love to play at the Olympic Games again," Federer said Monday during an exhibition event in Tokyo.

He made his Olympic debut for Switzerland in 2000 at Sydney, where he met his wife, Mirka, and finished fourth in singles. He competed at Athens in 2004 before combining with Stan Wawrinka to win the Olympic gold medal in doubles at Beijing in 2008. Federer finished with silver in the singles after losing to Andy Murray at Wimbledon in the final of the 2012 London Games, and he missed the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro because of injury.



AP

Roger Federer of Switzerland hits a return shot against David Goffin of Belgium during their men's singles match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019.

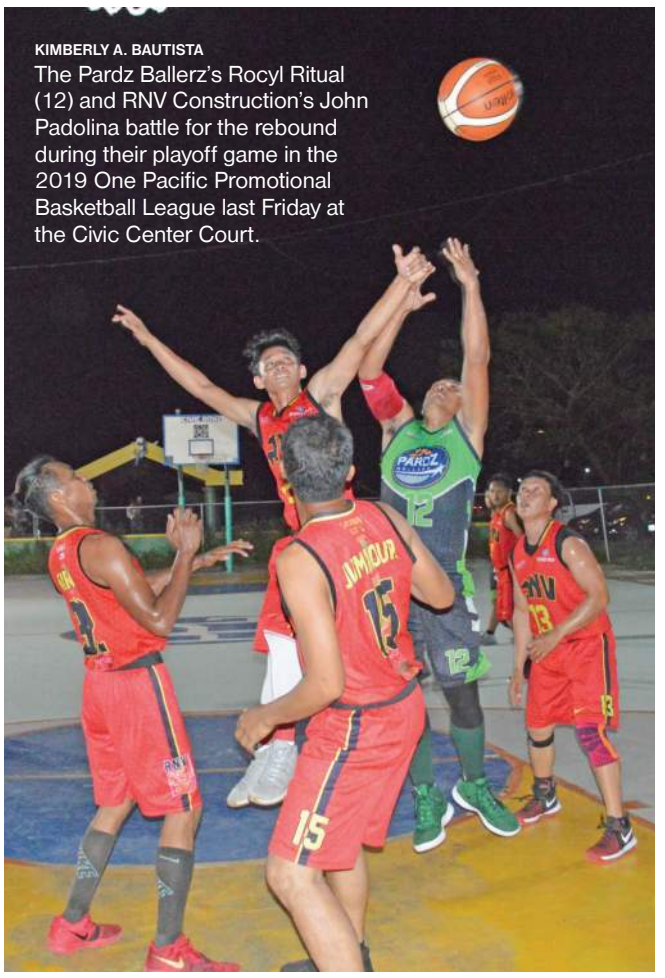
"If I am healthy I am coming. Absolutely," the 38-year-old Federer said. "I have been thinking about it for weeks now, just trying to figure the schedule more than anything, with my four children and my wife. Figuring out the U.S. Open, what do with the clay (Roland Garros), what to do with the grass (Wimbledon) and just how that all lines up."

The 20-time major winner said he was disappointed to skip the Rio Olympics because of a knee injury that sidelined him for the rest of the year at Wimbledon in 2016.

"Every Olympic Games has been very, very special to me," he said, adding that he figured he may as well make the announcement "while I was actually in the city where the Olympics will take place."

"I just figured it was an organic place to do that," he said, "so I am very happy to announce it here."

Pardz cruises to semis of One Pacific caging



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
The Pardz Ballerz's Rocyl Ritual (12) and RNV Construction's John Padolina battle for the rebound during their playoff game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Friday at the Civic Center Court.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pardz Ballers took the final seat in the semifinals of the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League after coasting past RNV Construction, 95-64, in their playoff match last Friday at the Civic Center Court.

Pardz will now play No. 1 seed Tsingtao Boyz in the battle for the first finals berth tonight, while Mawati and Connie's BBQ will meet in the other semifinal game.

The duel for the fourth and last semis ticket was easily won by Pardz, as it led right from the get-go and padded its lead as the match progressed.

Ahead by 8 after the first period, 18-10, Pardz brought its advantage to twin digits at the break 42-24, with J.R. Barrios and Ronald Romo scoring 7 points each in the second period.

When the game resumed, Pardz kept pouring on points, as it recorded 35 markers—the squad's biggest output in a quarter—to pad its lead, 77-42. This time, it was Joseph Torres and Bryan Santos who teamed up in the third-quarter assault after making 9 points each. Lucky Jose chipped in 6, while three Pardz players contributed two baskets apiece.

Facing a big deficit with just a quarter to go, RNV Construction tried to rally in fourth period, but its 22 markers were not enough to save the team's season.

Jose led the way for Pards with his 17 points, while Torres and Barrios also finished in twin digits, contributing 14 each. Santos and Romo combined for 22 more markers for Pardz, which got 19 from Rocyl Ritual, Hipolito Estorosas, and Ronald Bernardo.

While Pardz ran a balance offense, it was a different story for RNV, as only Ronald Rueda and Len Biscocho hit double figures for the losing team after logging 20 and 15 points, respectively.

Pardz Ballers 95—Jose 17, Torres 14, Barrios 14, Santos 13, Romo 9, Ritual 7, Estorosas 6, Bernardo 5, Umali 4, Calbone 4, Galulu 2.

RNV Construction 64—Rueda 20, Biscocho 15, Odicta 7, Mortos 6, Tagle 5, Corpus 4, Jumaquio 3, Baul 2, Taraya 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-10, 42-24, 77-42, 95-64.

Over 300 students qualify for cross-country finale

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The 2019 All Schools Cross-Country Championships will be held this Friday with more than 300 students racing at the Saipan Country Club.

The Public School System and Northern Marianas Athletics, which are co-organizing this year's cross-country events, will kick off the finale at 3:30pm. The championship will feature 306 students who qualified for this weekend's race after competing in one of the three preliminary runs. Qualifiers will compete in the U7, U9, U12, U14, and U18 age groups with Tinian and Rota expected to join Saipan students in the finale.

The U12, U9, and U7 divisions' course will cover approximately 1.5 kilometers (one-lap race), while U14 runners will run around 3 kilometers (two laps). Students in the U18 division will have the longest run—a 4.5-kilometer course (three laps).



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Elementary school students head to the finish line during the first preliminary race for the 2019 All Schools Cross-Country Championships at the Saipan Country Club last month.

The U7 division has 24 female participants and 28 male, while the U9 division will see 22 female runners and 16 male.

For the U12 division, 18 will compete in the the girls race and 31 in the boys, while the U14 division draws 28 female qualifiers and 26 male. The U18 division has the most participants with 51 female runners and 62 male.

The number of participants does not include the Tinian and Rota representatives.

GCA

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from-behind win with a 15-7 triumph in the deciding third.

For its pair of victories last Saturday, SIS 1 swept both Kagman and MHS 1. The Lady Geckos registered a 25-13, 25-11 win over the Lady Ayuyus and downed MHS 1, 25-9, 26-24.

In other results, Saipan Southern outclassed Kagman, 25-22, 25-22, while MHS 2 slipped past MHS 1, 20-25, 25-21, 15-10.

MHS 1 had another three-set match last week and this time it won over MCS 1. The Lady Knights took the first set, 25-19, but MHS 1 fought back in the second, 25-12, and then squashed the Lady Knights in the third, 15-12. For its third game, MHS 1 also went through three sets before beating Kagman, 25-13, 21-15, 15-5.

MHS 2 played two more matches and won both of them after defeating Agape, 25-11, 25-9, and MCS 2, 25-22, 25-22.

Mt. Carmel 2 averted a shutout last week, as it triumphed over SIS 2, 25-10, 25-21, while MCS 1 also won in straight sets against Saipan Southern, 26-24, 25-20. In the all-Lady Knights duel, the game went back and forth with MCS 1 winning, 25-17, 20-25, 20-18.

CAROL

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bring Lee to an early collision with tournament No. 2 seed and Japanese Natsumi Kawaguchi, who was slated to face American Jennifer Kida in the first round yesterday.

Lee came to Osaka from Seoul, South Korea, joining one of the prestigious tournaments in Japan, as the event features several players who are ranked in the Top 200 in the world. France's Diane Parry is the highest-ranked player in the girls singles at No. 7.

The World Super Junior is a Grade A tournament, which awards 500 world ranking points to the singles champion and 375 to the doubles winners. The finalists, semifinalists, quarterfinalists, Round of 16, and Round of 32 qualifiers will receive 300, 185, 100, 50, and 20 ranking points, respectively.

The Commonwealth bet is playing in the Grade A tournament after coming off a semis stint in the 100th Korean National Sports Festival where she won her first three matches before bowing to two-time high school division champion Cherry Kim in the Final Four.

Meanwhile, Lee will also see action in the doubles event of the World Super Junior. She is teaming up with Skyler Marie Grace Grishhuk of the U.S. and the unseeded pair is scheduled to duel No. 8 seed Nastasia Mariana Schunk and Diana Shnaider of Russia in the opening round today.

After the competition in Japan, she will return to Korea for a pair of world-ranking events. Lee will play in the Chuncheon Songam Sports Town Tennis Courts in Songam-dong Chuncheon-si from Oct. 28 to Nov. 3 and the 2010 Seogwipo Asia/Oceania Closed Junior Championships in Jeju-do set for Nov. 4 to 10.

TRIUMPH

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goals to power Mt. Carmel to a 2-0-0 win-draw-loss record early this season. The striker had a pair in their victory over SIS, making his first one in the ninth minute and the second in the 41st minute. Miles Linden posted the other goal for the Knights, as he closed out for the winning team in the 49th minute. The Geckos, on the other hand, drew their lone goal from Jeff Kim, who found the back of the net in the 51st minute.

Versus FMS, Toves had a hat trick early in the first half after hitting his target in the seventh, 18th, and 23rd minute and then added one more in the second half (47th minute). Devin Propst chipped in a brace with his goals in the sixth and 43rd minute, while Mark Chavez contributed one (50th minute).

FMS got its only goal in its loss to Mt. Carmel from Mark Joseph Roque.

Roque then towed FMS to victory over Hopwood 1 when he registered three goals in last weekend's game. His twin brother, Mark Joshua, also made it to the board and FMS' two other goals came from Frank Basa and Monico Claridades. Jurvin Bisek logged the pair of goals for Hopwood 1.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Francisco M. Sablan Middle School student, left, takes a shot during their game against Hopwood Middle School 1 in the 2019 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Meanwhile, Hopwood 2 forced a draw against SIS in the Hilitais' season debut early this month.

Pritom Sannyashi drilled the equalizer for Hopwood 2 after scoring in the 47th minute, while Kristopher Pascual delivered the other goal for the Hilitais in the 24th minute.

The Geckos had to settle for a draw in their first game of the season despite taking a 2-1 lead at the break. Allen Cho put SIS on the board in the 10th minute, while Chung posted the second goal 11 minutes later.



Nationals one win away from World Series

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LeBron: Morey 'wasn't educated' on China tweet

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TENNIS PEOPLE KOREA PHOTO

The CNMI's Carol Lee, seen here going for a baseline return during a tournament in South Korea last week, is in Japan now and won her first match in the Osaka Mayor's Cup-World Super Junior Tennis Championships 2019 yesterday at the Utsubo Tennis Center.

Carol wins in World Super Jr.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee got off to a strong start in the Osaka Mayor's Cup-World Super Junior Tennis Championships 2019 yesterday at the Utsubo Tennis Center.

Lee, who is at the bottom half of the 64-player draw, was pitted against Great Britain's Amami Banks in the first round and prevailed in straight sets, 6-3, 6-1. Banks is ranked No. 137 in the world, seven notches higher than Lee (No. 130). The 16-year-old Briton holds a career record of 52-39 in singles and is 19-16 this year. The 17-year-old Lee, on the other hand, owns a 110-50 career mark and has a 20-10 slate in her last year under the ITF Juniors World Tour.

The victory over Banks may

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GCA, SIS 1 share v-ball league lead



KIMBERLY C. BAUTISTA

A Saipan International School 2 player returns the ball to Agape Christian School during an earlier game in the 2019-2020 PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy and Saipan International School 1 are tied for the lead in the 2019-2020 PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League.

The Lady Eagles and Lady Geckos won their respective matches at the Marianas High School Gymnasium last week to earn similar 7-0 records and enjoy the top spot in the 10-team competition. GCA and SIS 1 are ahead of Marianas High School 2 (6-1), MHS 1 (4-3), Kagman High School (2-5), Mount Carmel School 1 (2-5) and MCS 2 (2-5), Saipan Southern High School (2-4), Agape Christian School (2-4), and SIS 2 (0-7).

The Lady Eagles remained undefeated after prevailing against Agape, SIS 2, and KHS last week, while SIS 1 shared the same perfect mark following its victories over MHS 2, KHS, MHS 1, and MCS 1.

Against Agape in last Saturday's make-up game, GCA cruised to a straight set win, 25-9, 25-9. The Lady Eagles also needed only two sets to beat SIS 2, 25-13, 25-14, in another make-up match last weekend. Versus Kagman last Thursday, GCA notched a 25-10, 25-10 triumph.

Also last Thursday, SIS 1 topped MHS 2, 25-18, 25-21. For their second game in the same day, the Lady Geckos took three sets to beat MCS 1. The Lady Knights prevailed in the first set 25-20, but SIS 1 redeemed itself in the second set, 25-14, and completed the come-

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Mt. Carmel, FMS triumph

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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Mt. Carmel School made it two in a row, while Francisco M. Sablan Middle School recovered from its season debut loss, as games in the 2019 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League resumed last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The Knights topped Saipan International School, 3-1, for a fitting follow-up on their 7-1 triumph over FMS during the ISL opening week last Oct. 4. FMS also played last Friday at the other half of the pitch and battled back from the defeat to Mt. Carmel with a 6-2 victory against Hopwood Middle School 1.

Markus Toves scored six

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School, left, and Mt. Carmel School players get tangled up as they battle for possession during their game in the 2019 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.